Olivia, Lucas most popular baby names in 3 US territories. PAGE 2
Hotel occupancy at 80 percent in April. PAGE 5

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Propst: Are others in govt also getting funding cuts?

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) questions why the Legislature seems to be the only one whose budget is being targeted for cuts, saying this is against the Planning and Budget Act.

Propst laments that the $7,500 monthly allotment of each member of the Legislature—House and Senate—went down to $4,300 and is expected to be reduced for the rest of the fiscal year.

Propst

"We took a huge and unannounced cut. We didn't get any notice from the [Torres] administration," he said. "That means I don't have enough funds to pay my staff for the month of May. It is very troubling to see that happening because they also have families to feed. I am not alone in this. There are other representatives and senators who are going to lay off their staff and make big cuts."

See PROPST on Page 4

NMC VISIT

NMC

The CNMI House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chairman and members recently visited the Northern Marianas College to learn firsthand about how the college is meeting academic and workforce needs and about NMC's typhoon recovery/rebuilding efforts. The committee members also met with students, toured the campus, and met with key stakeholders to see how the college is building capacity.

Visitor arrivals at 40K in April

Visitor arrivals in the CNMI reached a total of 39,663 in April 2019 compared to 49,198 in April 2018.

Although the figure is 19-percent lower than April 2018, it is also the strongest monthly performance since Super Typhoon Yutu hit the Marianas in October 2018, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

With the resumption of T'way Air on Mar. 31, South Korea regained its position as the top- performing source market for the Marianas with 17,182 visitors, a 22-percent decrease compared to April 2018 but still the country's strongest month since Yutu.

The decline is due to the downsizing of Asiana Airlines' aircraft and the decreased frequency of

See VISITORS on Page 4

Cab driver allegedly an overstaying tourist with a fake driver's license

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Homeland Security Investigations officers arrested last week on Saipan an alleged overstaying female tourist who was driving a taxi using a fake CNMI driver's license.

Chunqiao Chen, who was arrested for a fake driver's license, was brought to the U.S. District Court late Friday afternoon.

According to a complaint filed by Homeland Security special agent Nicole Sively, HSI task force officer Jesse Dubrall encountered Chen last Thursday and recognized her as the one from whom he had seized an expired Saipan driver's license last May 2.

When Dubrall asked Chen why she was driving again when he had previously advised her that she could not

See CAB on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

Sachiyo Masubuchi wins the Fried Rice Eating Contest at the Taste of the Marianas.

PAGE 6

ASIA

The Philippines is recalling its ambassador and consuls in Canada over a garbage issue.

PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger was assaulted during a public appearance in South Africa.

PAGE 19

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Local

Olivia, Lucas most popular baby names in 3 US territories

Olivia and Lucas seem to be the most popular baby names in American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands last year, according to the list of the Social Security Administration.

In an SSA statement last Friday, it said the top five boys names for 2018 in American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI were Lucas, William, Aiden, Daniel, and Kevin.

The top five girls names in the three U.S. territories are Olivia, Sophia, Isabella, Mia, and Angela.

On the other hand, the most popular baby names in the U.S. mainland are Liam and Emma, according to Nancy A. Berryhill, acting Social Security commissioner last week.

How does American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands compare to the rest of the country? Check out Social Security's website, www.socialsecurity.gov, to see the top national baby names for 2018.

Berryhill encourages everyone to enjoy the baby names list and create a my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. my Social Security is a personalized online account that people can use beginning in their working years and continuing while receiving Social Security benefits.

Social Security beneficiaries can have instant access to their benefit verification letter, payment history, and complete earnings record by establishing a my Social Security account. Beneficiaries also can change their address, start or change direct deposit information, and print a replacement SSA-1099 online. People receiving benefits can request a replacement Medicare card online.

People age 18 and older who are not receiving benefits can also sign up for a my Social Security account to get their personalized online Social Security statement. The online statement provides workers with secure and convenient access to their Social Security earnings and benefit information, and estimates of future benefits they can use to plan for their retirement.

The agency began compiling the baby name list in 1997, with names dating back to 1880. At the time of a child's birth, parents supply the name to the agency when applying for a child's Social Security card, making Social Security America's source for the most popular baby names.

In addition to each state's top baby names (and names for U.S. territories), Social Security's website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys and girls names for 2018.

To read about the winners for the biggest jump in popularity and to see how pop culture affects baby names, go to https://www.socialsecurity.gov/news/press/releases/.

The agency is proud to announce Instagram as its newborn social media channel. The new addition arrived in April and will share information and resources that can help you and your loved ones. ***(PR)***

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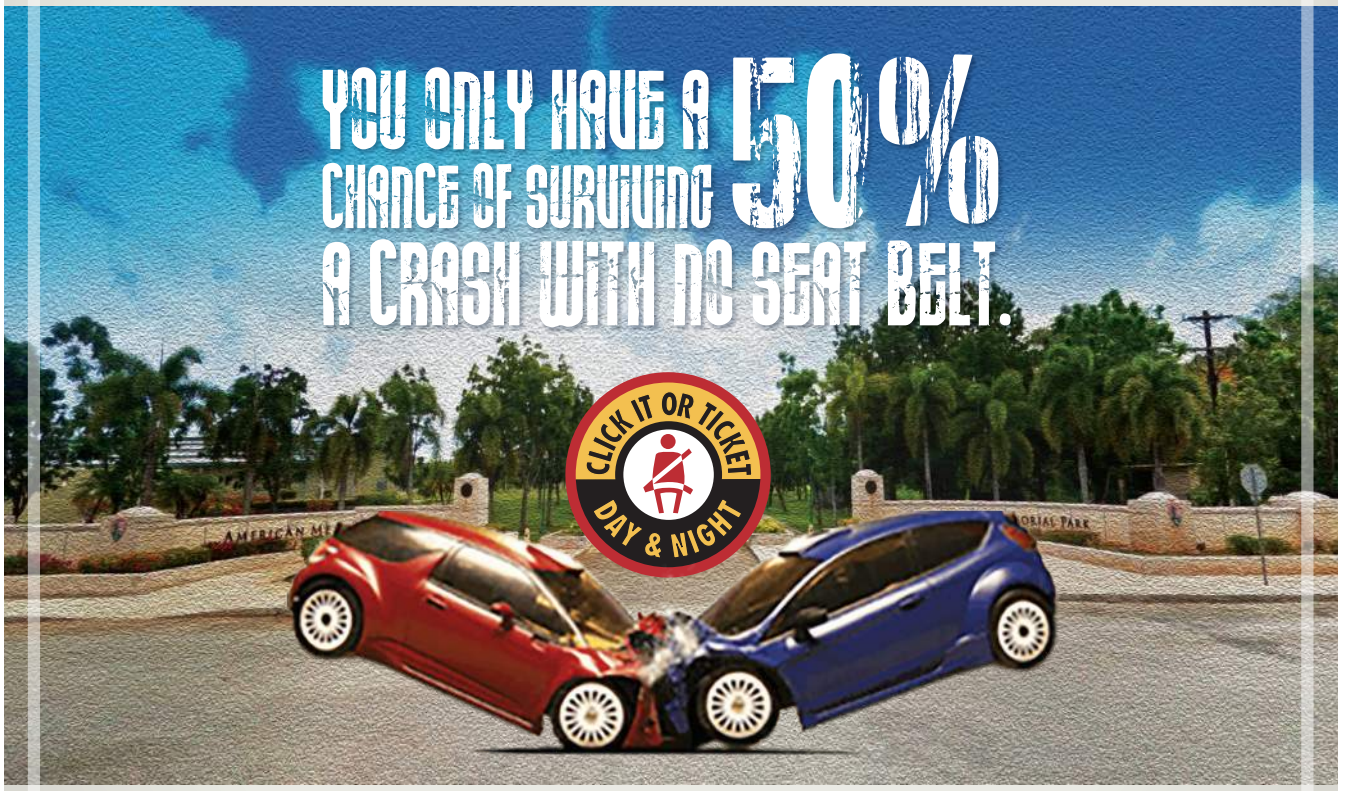

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Budget hearings begin

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The House Ways and Means Committee begins its series of budget hearings starting with the CNMI Public School System today at 9:30am at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

The House, voting 14-4, adopted House concurrent resolution 21-1, to approve the CNMI's revenues and resources of over $233.2 million in projected gross resources, and more than $147.1 million available for appropriation for fiscal year 2020.

The Torres administration may still amend its budget proposal.

The four dissenting votes in the House concurrent resolution came from minority bloc leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan), and Richard Lizama (Ind-Saipan).

Propst and Sablan also aired concerns over the government's current financial status.

The Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), will scrutinize the budget proposed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and hear from government agencies and departments about their budget requests.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) said the committee should carefully "scrutinize all the numbers. You can determine the outcome; it can be lower than what we adopted. Also, take the opportunity, as members of this body, to work on the budget and assist the committee. So we could come up with a good product that we can present to the Senate."

Blanco said it will be hard but they are up to the challenge beginning with PSS. "The committee appreciates PSS accepting our invitation to discuss it budget proposal in light of the administration's cost-containment measures, in order to ensure that, first and foremost, no service disruption shall occur to serve our 10,000-plus students."

Propst is concerned that the projections of the government are off, with the Legislature receiving reductions in its monthly allotments. "How can we operate and why is the Legislature taking much of the hit?"

He pointed out that the Planning and Budget Act states that "decreases in estimated revenues may be absorbed proportionately by all branches, offices, departments, and agencies of the Commonwealth."

"Is it across-the-board and proportionate? Because, if it is not, it is unfair and we have been penalized. If that's the case, is the administration doing the same proportionate cuts? We are equal branches—Executive and Judiciary. Are they also getting the same cuts? If not, somebody is breaking the law. We need to get back to reality with our figures, so that we don't end up with overspending and being so far off," said Propst.

Guam mails out tax refunds

HAGATNA, Guam—The Guam Department of Revenue & Taxation and Department of Administration will mail this week over 1,200 tax refund checks totaling approximately $4.5 million, including refunds garnished to repay government debts for error-free returns filed on or before Jan. 29, 2019.

For inquiries, contact the Income Tax Branch of the Department of Revenue & Taxation at (671) 635-1840 or Edward Birn, Department of Administration, at (671) 475-1250. ***(PR)***

NEWS BRIEFS

DFS Saipan's Rabold promoted to VP

Milan Rabold, the general manager of DFS Saipan Ltd., has been promoted to vice president store operations, MidPacific (Saipan and Guam). Rabold will continue to be based on Saipan.

Rabold started his career with DFS in 2012 as an assistant general manager in training after working on a project with them as part of his MBA in luxury brand management at ESSEC Business School.

Rabold was appointed assistant general manager sales at Hong Kong International Airport in 2013.

The following year he relocated to Saipan as assistant general manager sales at T Galleria Saipan. In 2015, he was promoted to general manager DFS Saipan.

Under Rabold's leadership, the Saipan business has maintained steady growth and performance, despite the devastating effects of Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and Supe TyphoonYutu in 2018, for which Rabold was instrumental in coordinating global relief efforts. Rabold also led the full renovation of the Saipan Galleria.

He is married to Jian Joyner Rabold. ***(PR)***

Police checkpoints this week

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting four checkpoints this week.

On Wednesday, May 22, the first checkpoint will be from Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau from 8am to 11am.

The second checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, San Jose from 3pm to 6pm.

On Friday, May 24, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Susupe from 9am to 12pm.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Isa Drive, San Vicente from 3pm to 6pm.

Locations of the checkpoints were pre-determined based on the number of auto accidents in these areas. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

Lee Ann Jastillana named to Emerson College dean's list

BOSTON—Lee Ann Jastillana, a resident of Saipan, has been named to the Emerson College dean's list for the spring 2019 semester. Jastillana is majoring in journalism and is a member of the Class of 2019. The requirement to make Emerson's dean's list is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

Located in Boston, Massachusetts, Emerson College has 3,750 undergraduates and 750 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. For more information, visit www.emerson.edu. ***(PR)***

Anti-abortion walk/roll on May 24

Grace Christian Ministries Navy Hill is inviting the public to join them for a candlelight prayer walk/roll on Friday, May 24, at 6pm, at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Parish church. Its purpose is to pray over the many needs of the island related to the issue of abortion. After the prayer there will be a walk/roll to Quartermaster Road then back to Garapan Fishing Base. ***(PR)***

Public invited to Islandwide Cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality would like to invite the public to participate in the two-day Islandwide Cleanup on Friday, May 31, from 3pm to 4:30pm and on Saturday, June 1, from 8am to 10am. The event is part of the celebration of Environmental Awareness Week, which will be celebrated on May 28-31, 2019.

If you are interested in participating in the islandwide cleanup, fill up the registration form and submit before 4:30pm on May 21, 2019. Fax the form to BECQ at 664-8540, or email it to the event coordinators:

- Glenn Arriola glennarriola@becq.gov.mp
- Loy Atalig loyatalig@becq.gov.mp
- Emma Iriarte emmairiarte@becq.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Military training at Dandan, Farallon de Medinilla, open ocean

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan on May 20, from 11am to 11:55pm.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during training.

This type of training is designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 20, from 8am to 8pm.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 3-nautical mile radius of the island.

The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises on May 20, from 7pm to 11pm at coordinates 13° 26"N/145° 08"E and 13° 42"N/144° 36.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. It is also recommended the public, commercial pilots, fishermen and marine tour operators stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated. ***(PR)***

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NMC holds first-ever disability conference

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Instead of the NMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Northern Marianas College took over hosting duties for its first disabilities conference at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan over the weekend.

NMC interim director of the Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Jennifer Castro told *Saipan Tribune* that the conference was held in order to inform incoming students of the services the college offer to people with disabilities.

"Our hope is to do it every year. …We are working closely with the OVR to provide this for all three islands," she said, noting that last Friday's conference was the first on Saipan hosted by NMC.

She noted that talks with Tinian and Rota about hosting the same conference there are ongoing.

"Our goal is to get students with disabilities…started [thinking about the] kind of jobs they want to get into after college," she said. "[This conference] lets them know that there is support [for them] in college."

The conference also helps students pick the career they wish to pursue, added NMC director of Community Development Arthur De Or.

"The students are learning how they can access services after high school. We also gave them information on different career choices and how they can avail of the services that are available to them to transition from high school to college or to the workforce," he said.

There were over 110 participants as of 2pm Friday, 40 of which were students from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and the Da'ok Academy; the other 70 were community partners that included teachers, teacher aides, and family members.

All those that attended the conference, according to Castro, were juniors and seniors.

MVA board chair confident Iakopo will perform well

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

While acknowledging that new Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo lacks experience in the tourism industry, MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce is confident that Iakopo is an intelligent person who will do her best for the MVA.

"We all have been where she is coming into this position—inexperienced but very enthusiastic to learn," said Aldan-Pierce.

With the help of tenured MVA staff and the board's guidance, they have no doubt that Iakopo will perform as expected, she said.

Aldan-Pierce pointed out that the MVA board is made up of the tourism industry's top executives, and that they have the responsibility to ensure that Iakopo's transition to MVA is smooth.

"We ask the public's support and indulgence during this time," she said.

Iakopo started work as MVA's managing director last Monday.

Iakopo said she has many plans ahead and that she will continue to work with the MVA team to promote tourism and embrace what they have to offer.

As to concerns of some people that she has no tourism business background, Iakopo said she is a driven person.

Iakopo used to serve as interim chief financial officer at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. She last served as a director of CHCC's procurement and supply.

Iakopo's predecessor, Christopher Attao Concepcion, will be working with the Torres administration under the planning and development office. Concepcion resigned as managing director last March 12.

Meanwhile, Aldan-Pierce shared her observation on Taste of the Marianas, an annual MVA event held every Saturday for the tourism month of May.

Aldan-Pierce said last Saturday's rain cooled the Taste of the Marianas venue at the American Memorial Park, which was a welcome change from what she had heard during the first two Saturdays of the event.

She said a new layout also made it seems bigger this year.

"We have broken previous years' revenues. It's a great family event," she said.

Aldan-Pierce said Saturday night's J's Fried Rice Competition was also amazing.

She said Sachiyo Masubuchi, the reigning champion from last year's fried chicken contest, was "awe-inspiring."

Aldan-Pierce said Masubuchi did not stop moving once the clock started—hand to mouth with rice or water—for 30 minutes and managed to consume over 6 lbs of rice.

"Kudos to the local competitors for joining! The MVA staff and management deserve a huge credit for always putting on such great community events," she added.

PROPST

From Page 1

He pointed out that his monthly allotment, originally set at $7,500, goes to his public service projects for Precinct 1. "For the record, I never have received any cent on the so-called allowance; I never take one penny. My entire allotment goes to public service or helping people, one way or another."

The Planning and Budget Act states that decreases in estimated revenues may be absorbed "proportionately" by all branches, offices, departments, and agencies of the Commonwealth government.

He said the budget cuts on the Legislature's funds is illegal because "it is not proportionate and it is not across-the-board. We don't see the governor make a 40-percent cut to his budget, do we? Is the Judiciary taking a 40-percent cut? Are others making these huge cuts?

"It is like the Legislature has been targeted and we are receiving the biggest cut. So, it is frustrating," he added.

Propst pointed out that House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) keeps the House minority in ithe loop, "…including the minority on the issues that affect us all. … He meets with the minority to discuss issues."

The House minority is also hoping to get a chance to meet with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "We welcome a meeting with him to discuss a lot of concerns, including the $26-million deficit that occurred before [Super Typhoon] Yutu in fiscal year 2018 ending on Sept. 30," Propst said

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) pointed out that, with CNMI revenue collections not what the Torres administration had expected, the more important it is for the Legislature to scrutinize the fiscal year 2020 budget, which outlines the expected expenditures of the government.

"We actually face a budget cut of at least $30 million or probably more this fiscal year. We've been hearing that the governor is going to notify the Legislature soon of more proportionate cuts. We know that our offices have seen allotment cuts even for just this month," she said.

"It will likely be necessary to adjust the revenue for [fiscal year] 2020. To have a true picture of our government's finances, we would need the reported revenue collection from Oct. 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019, projected cash flows, and we need to know assumption of the administration."

VISITORS

From Page 1

Jeju Air flights from Busan to Saipan.

Arrivals from China were 13 percent off last year's mark at 17,182 visitors in April. The travel season between Lunar New Year and Labor Day in early May is traditionally weak, and the China market is also facing a rising renminbi-U.S. dollar exchange rate as a result of U.S.-China tensions. Package prices to the Marianas in April 2019 were lower than last year, especially in the Hangzhou and Guangzhou markets, but sales were only moderate as the actual travel cost in the Marianas was higher than usual.

Japan posted 2,313 visitors for the month, 50-percent lower than April 2018 when daily direct flights operated between Narita and Saipan. The April figures included two cruise ship arrivals carrying a combined 932 passengers and four charter flights from Japan by Skymark Airlines during Japan's Golden Week holiday. The airline is also slated to start regular daily flights in July 2019, marking a much-anticipated turnaround for the once-dominant market.

Economic highlights

South Korea's economy unexpectedly shrunk in the first quarter due to a drop in capital investment and falling exports. The result is the lowest growth since the fourth quarter of 2008, when Asia's fourth-largest economy contracted by 3.3 percent.

The Korea Tourism Organization reported that the number of Korean overseas travelers was up 6.1 percent year on year, reaching 2.33 million in March 2019. The average U.S. dollar/won exchange rate in April was 1137.12 won, a slight increase from the previous rate of 1095.24 won in March.

China's latest macroeconomic data released in April was generally worse than expected, with consumption growth hitting its lowest point in 16 years. China's real economy seems to be weakening, and pressure for China's economic growth to slow down is growing. However, even with a slight decline in economic growth, China's outbound tourism boom has shown no signs of any reduction, and the number of outbound tourists continues to grow steadily.

Japan National Tourism Organization reported that the number of Japanese overseas travelers was up 6.8 percent year on year, reaching 1.93 million in March 2019, approximately 120,000 more travelers than a year earlier.

The Bank of Japan left its key short-term interest rate unchanged at -0.1 percent at its April meeting. ***(MVA)***

CAB

From Page 1

legally drive on Saipan, she allegedly presented Dubrall with another driver's license.

After checking with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Dubrall determined that this Saipan driver's license was fake, leading to Chen's arrest.

In the May 2 encounter, it started when Federal Protective Services officer Sean White saw Chen in the driver's seat of a red Toyota sedan in the parking lot of the Marina Heights II Business Plaza in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

White asked HSI for a records checks on Chen. Chen allegedly presented White with an expired Saipan driver's license

Dubrall and another HSI task force responded to the scene to assist White and took the expired Saipan driver's license.

When asked, the passenger of the vehicle claimed that Chen was the taxi driver.

When asked if she had a valid CW-1 permit that authorized her to work as a cab driver, Chen allegedly replied she did not have one.

Chen was then told to report to the HSI Saipan office in order to verify her immigration status, which she did. Using a Mandarin interpreter, HSI personnel obtained Chen's biographical information to include her citizenship. HSI personnel also obtained her fingerprints and photograph.

Sively said that, according to DHS records, Chen is a citizen of the People's Republic of China and was granted a CNMI-only Conditional Parole by Customs and Border Protection on Oct. 23, 2013, that was effective up to Oct. 30, 2013.

Based on the records, Sively said, Chen had overstayed and is now illegally here.

Sively said Chen was then administratively arrested for violating the Immigration and Nationality Act. Wikipedia defines administrative detention as arrest and detention without trial, usually for security reasons.

During an interview, Dubrall allegedly advised Chen that her Saipan driver's license was expired and that he would retain it.

Chen allegedly told Dubrall that she intended to renew her Saipan driver's license. Until then, Chen that she could not legally drive in Saipan and was ineligible for a driver's license because she did not have a valid immigration status in the U.S., Dubrall advised.

Chen was then released from custody after she agreed to return to the HSI office at a later date.

Last Thursday, May 16, at 10am, Dubrall again saw Chen driving a red Toyota sedan at the Da Bao tire shop in Chalan Piao on Saipan.

Dubrall approached Chen and when he asked her why she was driving again, she presented him with a driver's license that was unexpired that she allegedly obtained from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Dubrall told Chen that it was not possible because he had already flagged her with the BMV for not having any immigration status.

Dubrall and Chen then went to the BMV office, where a BMV technician said that there was no information in the BMV system regarding the recent driver's license renewal for Chen.

The technician also stated that, based on the fonts used in the license, the colors used, and other discrepancies, the license from Chen was not issued by BMV.

Dubrall then reviewed Chen's 2016 driver's license renewal application, and it appeared that a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-797C notice of action was submitted for the 2016 renewal as part of her application.

Dubrall asked for translation assistance from CNMI Customs officer Yanche Magofna, who spoke fluent Mandarin, to verify Chen's claim that she obtained the driver's license from the BMV.

With Magofna's assistance, Dubrall asked if the building where they were located is the same building where Chen obtained the driver's license that she presented to Dubrall earlier that day.

Chen confirmed that she obtained the current driver's license from the BMV office at that location.

Chen was then brough to the HSI Saipan office for further questioning and Dubrall informed HSI special agent Michael Lansangan of the information he had obtained from BMV officials, particularly the information in the I-797C form that was part of Chen's application

Lansangan did a computer record checks on Chen as well as of the receipt number in the I-797C from BMV.

Lansangan found that Chen was not previously granted any CW-1 or other U.S. visa, and that Chen entered the CNMI several years ago as a tourist under the conditional parole system.

Upon querying the receipt number from the I-797C, Lansangan noted that Chen was not one of the listed employees or beneficiaries under that receipt.

Lansangan reviewed the I-797C retrieved from BMV and noted that two of the names on the document (including Chen) were not associated with that receipt numbers.

A longer version of this story is available on **www.saipantribune.com**

Hotel occupancy at 80 pct. in April

17 pct. fewer rooms sold due to hotel closures

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 79.77-percent average occupancy rate among 11 member-hotels for April. The figure reflects a 5-percent decrease for HANMI hotels compared to April 2018.

Cavanagh

However, HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh noted that due to an overall reduction in available room nights, the actual number of rooms sold in April 2019 compared to April 2018 dropped 17 percent, as 54,988 of 68,935 available room nights sold in April 2019, compared to 66,500 of 78,899 available room nights sold over the same period last year.

The decline in available hotel rooms is largely due to the closure of Mariana Resort & Spa following the non-renewal of its public land lease and the continued closure of Coral Ocean Golf Resort following Super Typhoon Yutu.

"We are now at 80 percent average occupancy, which by industry standards, is the bottom threshold for long-term sustainability. It's not a good place to be for CNMI revenue generation or for investors," said Cavanagh. "One of the quickest ways to improve our destination product and the economy is to finalize negotiations on new leases for Fiesta Resort & Spa, which has only two years left to operate, and Hyatt Regency Saipan, which has two and a half years. We want to finish these negotiations with the Department of Public Lands. We applaud IPI seeking to draw brand-name hotels, but this will take years to build. We have to ensure that our only international brand name, Hyatt, remains, so not to lose prestige in the eyes of potential visitors. Mariana Country Club closed its doors this week, and without proper maintenance, the degradation to the golf course in just two or three weeks will make it necessary for any investor to start all over. We need a workable negotiation process to move these leases forward, faster."

Average room rates were at $135.00, slightly lower than $138.97 in April 2018.

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical reports are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"One of the other priorities for the hotel industry right now is working toward the processing of new CW visas to ensure an adequate workforce in the next fiscal year to support the tourism economy," Cavanagh added. "Yes, we need more visitors, but equally so, we need the workers to take care of our visitors when they get here, whether at hotels or other accommodations, restaurants, tours, or other services."

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(PR)***

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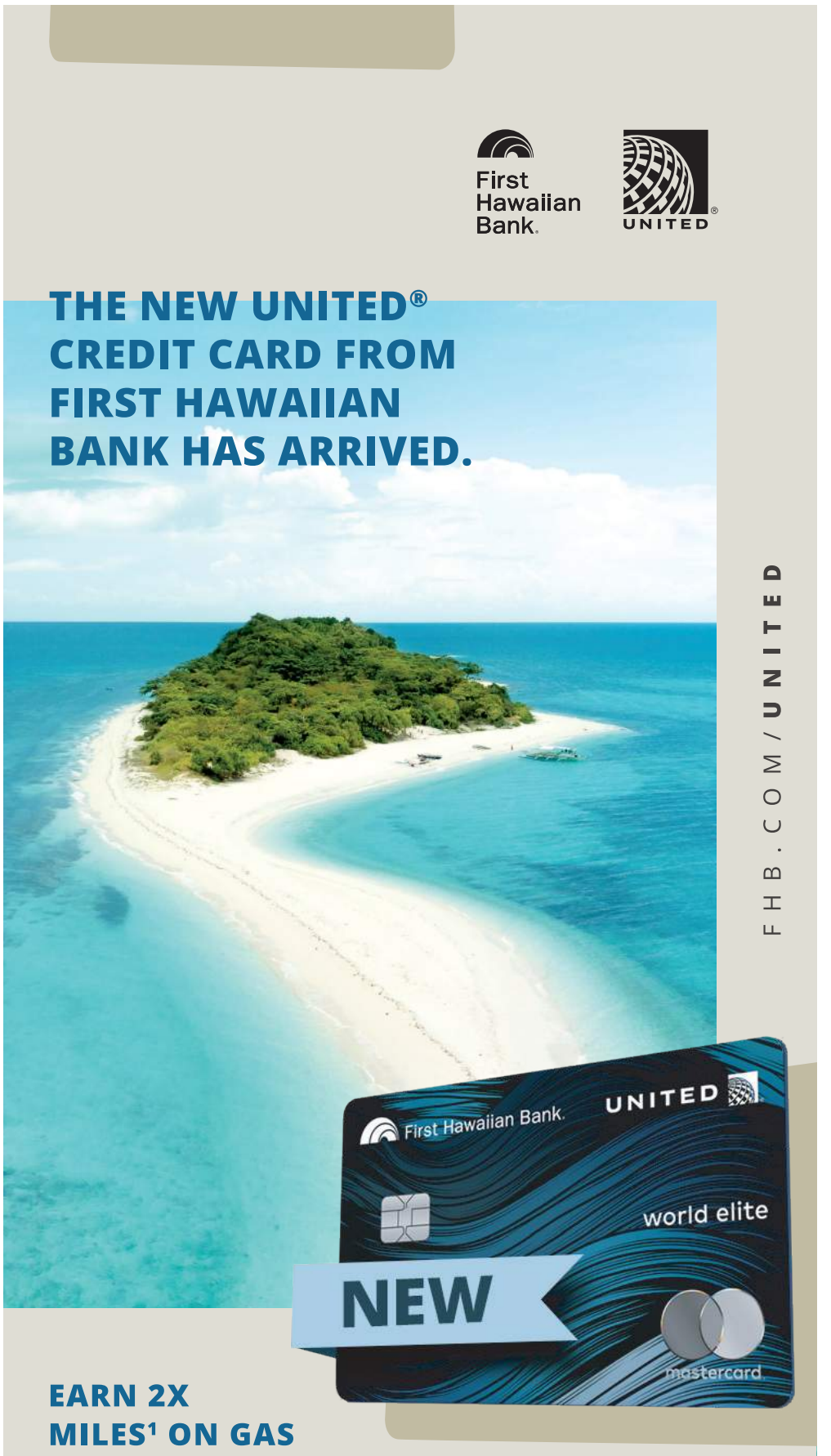

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Japanese celebrity wins eating contest at 'Taste'

By REICA RAMIREZ
reicajramirez@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

REICA RAMIREZ
Contestants pose for a picture with dignitaries and Marianas Visitors Authority staff.

Japanese female food fighter Sachiyo Masubuchi is congratulated by first lady Diann Torres. REICA RAMIREZ

REICA RAMIREZ
Contestants devour 10lbs of fried rice in last Saturday's Taste of the Marianas contest on the main stage.

Don't be fooled by the petite frame of Sachiyo Masubuchi.

She is aptly named a Japanese female food fighter, and she made good on that title by winning last Saturday's Fried Rice Eating Contest at the Taste of the Marianas, beating out six other contestants.

The challenge was to eat 10lbs of fried rice in just 30 minutes and Masubuchi, who also won the 2018 Taste of the Marianas Fried Chicken Eating Contest, handily won first place, with only 4lbs of fried rice remaining on her plate.

The fried rice- eating contest last Saturday, sponsored by J's Restaurant, took place on the main stage of the 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park in Garapan—the third staging of the festival this month.

The six other contestants in the fried rice-eating contest were Simon Necesito, James Garcia, Andrew Songsong, Prathuan Rinthamart, Kirk Johns, and Laura Lee. Masubuchi was the off-island celebrity contestant that organizers earlier mentioned to promote the event.

Because no one finished all the fried rice within the time limit, all the contestants walked away with consolation prizes. Some of the prizes include gift certificates to Ina's Kitchen, a buffet for two at Teppanyaki in Hyatt Regency Saipan, and a one-night stay at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Had any contestant been able to eat all 10lbs of fried rice within 30 minutes, they would have won the $1,000 cash prize.

Don't miss the last day of Taste of the Marianas on May 25 from 6pm to 11pm at the American Memorial Park. It will feature the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Junior Chefs Competition on May 25, sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale.

Safety Management System opens store in Susupe

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

BEA CABRERA
ceremony last Thursday in Susupe. From left, Rep. Richard Lizama, House Speaker B.J. Attao, Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and SMS owner Kevin Tang.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Management and staff of Safety First Management pose for a picture at their new store in Susupe (across Kanoa Resort).

Saipan welcomes a new business in town: Safety Management System officially opened its store to the public Thursday last week.

Located in Susupe, the store offers a line of safety equipment for construction and natural disasters such as fire, typhoon, and floods to provide a safe and efficient home and workplace.

The concept of opening a store that sells safety equipment was borne out of an unpleasant life experience that SMS owner Kevin Tang had. In 2017, one of the businesses he owned, the Kevin Department Store in Chalan Kanoa, was engulfed in fire and everything burned down.

"…Everyone has been saying that safety is very important but, sometimes, if you have not been stung by some tragic event, your understanding about it is not so deep," Tang said.

After the fire in 2017 and Super Typhoon Yutu, Tang came up with the idea of opening a safety store and was convinced that his friend, Jack Kabiriel, is the best person to run and manage the whole business operations.

"I did not hesitate to… open the Safety Management System store, share my own painful lessons through SMS, and have the opportunity to remind the community of the importance of safety," he added.

Most of the products that SMS has in the store are exported from the U.S. mainland. "These products have met quality requirements set by the U.S. Fire Department, Occupational Safety Standard and Health Administration, the Department of Labor, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Department of Public Safety," Tang said.

"Our team will do the best to provide excellent services for the safety of the community, sell high quality and competitive price safety products and services.

"As for the prices of our products, I believe we [offer competitive prices] because we get our supplies directly from suppliers," he added.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who led the ribbon-cutting, is pleased with the birth of new businesses on island. "I congratulate Mr. Tang for his continued investments here in the CNMI, especially after going through a huge damage from his business a few years ago," he said.

"We always welcome new businesses on island. …The more businesses [there are] on island, the more the whole community prospers," he added.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman, who was also at the SMS opening, said his department, the CNMI Small Business Development Center, and the Torres administration "always encourage the entrepreneurial spirit, especially if it's homegrown. Of course, we welcome investors near and far but it always feels good to see that government programs are working to lift up local business people," he said.

"New businesses create healthy competition as it gives customers here more options to choose from," he added.

Tang hopes the community will support him in this new venture. "This opportunity to provide safety products will surely benefit many…," he said.

Safety Management System is in Susupe (across Kanoa Resort) and is open from Monday to Saturday, from 8am to 5pm. For more information, call (670) 235-9111 or (670) 287-9111 or email it at sms-9111saipan@gmail.com.

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New NAP benefits distribution schedule on Saipan

The CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program announced on Thursday that it will be extending the June distribution schedule for Saipan from five days to 10 days beginning on June 3, 2019.

"The goal for this new schedule is to increase the efficiency of distribution for beneficiaries and reduce the longer wait time for recipients for picking up their benefits and for re-certifying their cases," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Approximately 3,206 families are currently participating in the program; 2,929 of these families are from Saipan.

"The number of participating families has gradually increased over the course of the past two years, from 2,412 in March 2017 to 3,206 in March 2019," said NAP administrator Walter Macaranas.

"As a result of the increase, recipients are experiencing longer wait time in order to receive their NAP coupon benefits and to re-certify their cases, nearly 600 [beneficiaries] each day for five days, which can no longer be accommodated. This also presents longer work hours for NAP staff.

"To mitigate this situation, the NAP must extend the previous five days of distribution schedule to 10 days of distribution," Macaranas said.

Also, the alphabet-based schedule will be discontinued beginning June 2019.

NAP normally distributed benefits based on first letter of the head of household's last name. For example, last names beginning with A to C, D to L, M to R, and S to Z will no longer be used. This means the rotation of schedules will also be discontinued.

Instead, the NAP will use a numeric schedule. This refers to the last number of the Case Record ID for the specific household. All Case Record IDs end with a numeric digit, for example B123456789. So, '9' for example dictates the day the household will be allowed to pick up their benefits. In this case, 9 represents Day 9 for picking up their benefits and for renewing their cases, if their certification will be expiring during the benefit month.

Accordingly, the new distribution schedule for Saipan is as follows for June 2019 and July 2019:

JUNE 2019	
June 3, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '1'
June 4, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '2'
June 5, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '3'
June 6, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '4'
June 7, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '5'
June 10, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '6'
June 11, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '7'
June 12 2019	Case Record ID ending with '8'
June 13, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '9'
June 14, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '0'

JULY 2019	
July 1, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '1'
July 2, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '2'
July 3, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '3'
July 5, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '4'
July 8, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '5'
July 9, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '6'
July 10, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '7'
July 11, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '8'
July 12, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '9'
July 15, 2019	Case Record ID ending with '0'

If a household is unable to come to the NAP office in As Lito to pick up their benefits on their scheduled date, they may come on any other day after Day 10, excluding holidays and weekends, to pick up their benefits but must do so before the end of the benefit month.

The numeric scheduling will be the same for August 2019 and September 2019, which would be in the same sequence of Case Record ID ending with '1' for Day 1 through Case Record ID ending with '0' for Day 10.

The NAP office solicits the patience and understanding of NAP participating families as they transition into the new schedules. For more information, contact the NAP office at 237-2842 or 237-2843 or visit its new Facebook page at www.facebook.com/nap.cnmi to view the revised distribution schedules. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
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Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled a regular meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Commission's main office at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. **PRELIMINARIES:**
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes: April 25, 2019

II. **REPORTS:**
A. Report by the Chairman
B. Report by the Executive Director

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

IV. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
A. Casino Licensee (IPI) Updates:
1. Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel.
2. IPI Personnel – Resident Employment Objectives & CLA Annual Plan.
3. Responsible Gaming Program.
4. Compliance Committee.
5. Other Miscellaneous Matters.
B. IPI's Request to the Lottery Commission to amend the Casino License Agreement, dated 5/8/19
C. Other Miscellaneous Matters.

V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
A. Update on House Bill 21-11.
B. **Annual Election of Officers** (Term: May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020). Positions: Chairman; Vice Chairman; Secretary; Treasurer; and, Media Relations/Public Affairs

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
A. **Approval** for Regular Casino Key Employee (CKE) License **RENEWAL** (2-years):
* Caren Michelle Decker – Casino Controller, IPI Finance. Current CKE License Expires on 9/30/19
B. **Approval** for Regular Casino Vendor License – Non-Gaming (3-years):
1. **Marianas Acquisition Corporation** (dba: IP&E Saipan). Fuel Supplier. Provisional License will expire on 05/27/2019.
2. **Pacific Rim Land Development, LLC** (dba: Pacific Rim Constructors). General Construction. Provisional License will expire on 05/31/2019.
C. **Consideration of Stipulated Agreement in DEI 18-0024-I** (Executive Director v. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC): CCC Order 2019-003: Order Confirming Stipulated Agreement in DEI 18-0024-I (Executive Director v. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC).
D. **CCC Order 2019-004:** Order Requiring the Casino Licensee to Demonstrate Financial Suitability.
E. Requests to Withdraw Application for the Regular Casino Vendor License:
1. **Triple J Motors Rental (Micronesia), Inc.** Car Rental Services. Letter of withdrawal from Ms. Tracy M. Guerrero, Corporate Controller, dated August 8, 2018. Provisional License expired on 08/30/2018.
2. **Triple J Saipan, Inc.** Car Sales, Rental, Food Wholesale, Restaurant, etc. Letter of withdrawal from Ms. Tracy M. Guerrero, Corporate Controller, dated August 8, 2018. Provisional License expired on 08/30/2018.
3. **International Fleet Sales, Inc.** Provider of Vehicles for Guests' Ground Transportation. Letter of withdrawal from Ms. Amy Schweng, Chief Financial Officer, dated August 24, 2018. Provisional License expired on 09/14/2018.
4. **SoftwareOne Hong Kong Limited.** Provider of software licenses. Letter of withdrawal from Mr. Van Lee, Country Manager, dated April 18, 2019. Provisional license will expire on 11/25/2019.

VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
A. IPI Financial Matters
B. Report by the CCC Audit Division
C. Report by the Legal Counsel

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(b). Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

Free journalism workshop on May 31

Former NMI students Rachel Ramirez and Thomas Manglona will be co-facilitating a workshop called "Journalism to Empower Communities," in collaboration with Mount Carmel School and made possible by support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a nonprofit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Manglona

The workshop, which will be hosted at the Latte Stone Room in Kanoa Resort on Friday, May 31, 2019, from 10am to 4pm, aims to create the next generation of journalists and media scholars from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ramirez and Manglona note how the make-up of newsroom diversity in the U.S. mainland lacks representation from Pacific Island communities, which, as a result, tends to lack or gets misrepresented in national news coverage.

In their first-ever journalism workshop, with the help of local newsrooms and everyday citizens in the CNMI, they plan to discuss the national news coverage of the Pacific Islands, particularly media coverage of natural disasters. They hope to provide the basic tools of journalism and media practices in this one-day workshop.

They will prepare reporting and journalism packets with the objective to teach the structure of a news story, how to prepare visuals, conduct interviews, find sources and more. Participants will leave with a multimedia skill set and published materials in print and broadcast.

Ramirez

Participants can register online at bit.ly/islandjourno. No prior experience is required. All are welcome from all backgrounds and walks of life. The event is absolutely free.

About the facilitators

Ramirez is an alumna of the University of Portland with a bachelor's degree in communication studies with a focus on journalism. She is also a Saipan Southern High School alumna. She previously reported for local news outlets in Portland, Oregon such as the Willamette Week and Oregon Business magazine. After college, she landed an internship with the Dow Jones News Fund program and became a reporter with the Financial Times. She is currently on a six-month reporting fellowship with Grist media.

Thomas Manglona is a Gates scholar, Truman scholar, and media studies major at the University of California Berkeley and alumnus of Mount Carmel School. He has previously reported for the *Marianas Variety*, *Saipan Tribune*, and *Pacific News Center*. He is currently the executive director of CalTV, UC Berkeley's online TV station serving over 30,000 students and managing over 100 student staff. ***(PR)***

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P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Friday, May 24, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
1. January 31, 2019 Continued Special Board Meeting
2. March 1, 2019 Special Board Meeting

E. Correspondence

II. Public Comments**

III. Management Reports
A. Executive Director's Report
B. Chief Financial Officer's Report

IV. Old Business
A. Emergency Procurement of Engine and Alternative Power Supply for Rota
B. Status of Outstanding Utility Billings
1. Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
2. Commonwealth Ports Authority
C. Telesource Contract
D. Amendment to Human Resources Classification System

V. New Business
VI. Personnel Committee Report
VII. Executive Session*
VIII. Other Related Matters
IX. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

Over 60 join Hopwood's parent literacy seminar

Over 40 parents of Hopwood Middle School students joined about 20 Public School System employees last Thursday at the Kanoa Resort Saipan for a parent literacy seminar that taught participants techniques on communicating effectively with their children

Hopwood counselor and PSS 2019 state counselor of the year Jillian Pladevega told *Saipan Tribune* that the attendees learned from PSS mental health specialist Laura Kyonka; Youth Suicide Prevention Program representatives Mia Jones and Fred Fatialofa; Garrett-Lee-Smith; and Community Guidance Center speakers led by Bryan Beck.

According to Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag, the final activity had the parents write a letter to their 13-year-old self as a means to put their new skills to practice with their younger selves.

"This [was] the perfect activity to end the day because they can reflect on how they can [communicate] with their child and what advice they would give their child because they remembered how they felt at the time," Pladevega said, adding that the summit was also open to other middle school parents.

"This was the first time the school provides a…seminar for our parents because we feel the need for us to reach out to the parents and help them with activities on how to help and support their children by providing their needs mentally, physically, and emotionally," Liwag noted in an interview.

She added that parent literacy is important to PSS. "It takes a community to raise a child and it's one way for us to come together as a community," she said.

Pladevega pointed out that learning starts from home, hence the importance of parent literacy.

"If we can get them to grow at home…they can do better at school," Pladevega added. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Labor to host community outreach and job fair

The CNMI Department of Labor will be holding its highly anticipated community outreach on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 and a job fair on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom in Garapan.

Both events are free and open to the public.

According to an Office of the Governor statement last Thursday, it said that the confirmed number of attendees for the community outreach is already nearing 100. Labor expects the number to grow even higher as the date approaches. Labor sees that as a show of interest in the community outreach being high.

"Many employers have also expressed interest in becoming a job fair participant, which occurs the day after the community outreach. Both events are expected to be resourceful events for employers, employees, and individuals looking for work," the statement added.

Topics of discussion during the outreach include enforcement of CNMI labor laws and compliance with them, Workforce Investment Agency program and partnering opportunities for CNMI employers, the labor complaint process and applicable regulations, and more.

Matthew Deleon Guerrero, Hive Analytics president and chief administrator of this year's CNMI prevailing wage survey, will be the guest speaker at the outreach on Tuesday.

"The Community Outreach is slated to be the biggest event of the year hosted by DOL," said Jeff Camacho, Division of Enforcement and Compliance director. "Each division director will discuss a topic relevant to current issues affecting CNMI employers and workers."

Benavente

Initially scheduled for the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, the event will now be held the Hyatt ballroom.

"DOL is very grateful to the Hyatt Regency Saipan for agreeing to accommodate us with this year's community outreach on such short notice," said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente. "The ballroom will comfortably seat over 100 attendees and is already equipped with the technical equipment we need for our day-long presentations."

The job fair on the next day, May 22, will also take place at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom, from 9am to 4pm.

Information about the outreach and job fair can be found at http://www.marianaslabor.net/ or by calling the DOL at 664-3190/3196.

Note that seats are limited, and the CNMI Department of Labor is asking for attendees to contact DOL at 664-3196 or 323-9996 to make reservations for the two-day event. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TREE PLANTING FOR PACIFIC GAMES

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, the CNMI Division of Forestry, and CNMI athletes and friends supported both the CNMI environment and the Pacific Games, request to plant new trees last Saturday, May18, which marked "50 Days To Go" until the start of the Samoa 2019 XVI Pacific Games, when 24 Pacific Games countries were asked to plant new trees to help replace emissions and resources that will be used during the Games. Saturday's tree-planting had a great turnout, and great appreciation is given for all their efforts.

CNMI awarded $8.7M in CIP funding

The U.S. Department of the Interior awarded the CNMI last Friday $8.67 million in fiscal year 2019 Capital Improvement Project funding.

"This award is just another product of our work for the benefit of the Mariana," said Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres in a statement Friday.

He thanked DOI and Office of Insular Affairs for funding CNMI priorities. This was done, he said, "by sharing our critical needs, which include funding for our local cost share of [Federal Emergency Management Agency] projects that have helped speed up our recovery and other critical infrastructure initiatives," Torres said.

The CIP funding will be allocated for the following projects:

- $431,604 for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. toward the Granular Activated Carbon Treatment System
- $5,143,896 for the local cost share of FEMA projects on Saipan
- $890,975 for the local cost share of FEMA projects on Tinian
- $890,975 for the local cost share of FEMA projects on Rota
- $500,000 for the local cost share of FEMA's Super Typhoon Yutu Hazard Mitigation projects
- $706,000 for the continuation of the CIP program administration
- $101,550 for the maintenance of infrastructure projects in the CNMI

Additionally, the CNMI received $400,000 for the Rota Department of Public Safety building renovations, as redirected from the 2016 Rota Landfill project. ***(PR)***

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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

CRM COMMERCIAL WATERSPORTS PERMIT RENEWAL

THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM) HEREBY GIVES NOTICE TO ALL COMMERCIAL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS ON SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA THAT THE DEADLINE TO RENEW YOUR CRM COMMERCIAL WATERSPORTS PERMIT IS ON **MAY 30, 2019**.

ALL ACTIVE COMMERCIAL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A CRM PERMIT APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL ON OR BEFORE THE MAY 30TH DEADLINE.

TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR OFFICE AT THE:

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY (BECQ)
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM)
PERMITTING SECTION
GUALO RAI CENTER, SUITE 303
CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, LOWER GUALO RAI

OR

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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IF YOU WANT TO STOP ABORTIONS, MAYBE YOU SHOULD CONSIDER A VASECTOMY.
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO WITH MY BODY!
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MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2019

EDITORIAL

A macabre murder case, a Chicago family's broken dreams

A new member of the family was coming. A baby boy: Marlen Ochoa-Lopez and Yovani Lopez's boy. Nine months pregnant, Marlen already had a 3-year-old son who now would have a brother.

Marlen, 19, was doing the things that parents do when they're bringing a new baby into the world. That includes stocking up on supplies. Before Marlen went missing, she found a Facebook group for mothers and came in contact with a 46-year-old woman who offered up a double stroller and baby clothes, the Tribune reported Thursday. The woman told Marlen, "My girl has all brand new boy clothes her son never wore."

On April 23, Marlen drove to a house in the Scottsdale neighborhood to get the stroller and clothes. There, according to police, Marlen was strangled and her baby was cut from her body. Police have charged Clarisa Figueroa, 46, and her daughter, Desiree, 24, with Marlen's murder. Clarisa Figueroa's boyfriend, Piotr Bobak, was charged with concealment of a homicide.

After Marlen's death, Clarisa Figueroa called 911 and reported that the baby wasn't breathing. The infant boy is on life support and shows no signs of brain function. Marlen's body was discovered Wednesday behind the house. Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi called the alleged crime an

See MACABRE on next page

Baby Yadiel, seen in a local hospital, after her mother Marlen Ochoa-Lopez was found dead in a home on Chicago's Southwest Side. The newborn was cut from her mother's womb after she was slain. FAMILY PHOTO/TNS

Don't blame trade and immigration for America's problems

By JOHN MANZELLA
Tribune News Service

John Manzella, founder of the ManzellaReport.com, is a speaker, author and nationally syndicated columnist on global business and economic trends. Contact him at JohnManzella.com.

I often hear people talk about their difficulties in finding a meaningful job or keeping up with increasing healthcare, housing and education costs. These concerns, along with rising income inequality and a shrinking middle class, are provoking anger. For many, trade and immigration have become convenient villains. But that narrative is wrong. Let me tell you why.

Income inequality, which is partly a reflection of the growing gap between lower and higher skilled workers, has risen steadily in the United States since the 1970s. In fact, the economic gap between the rich and poor is higher here than other advanced economies, according to the Pew Research Center. This has resulted in a shrinking middle class that no longer represents the majority of Americans.

What's gone wrong?

American free-market capitalism has generated the greatest economic growth the world has ever seen, but it has not benefited all of us equally. But in an effort to improve economic outcomes for all Americans, it's essential to continually improve our system of free-market capitalism—not move toward a more socialist-like model that empowers left-leaning politicians to make decisions that should be made by the market.

It's just as important not to accept oversimplified solutions to complex problems presented by far right or far left-leaning populist leaders. Unfortunately, support for the far right and left is growing and has contributed to greater polarization in the United States. This is further dividing Americans and making it more difficult for Congress to compromise to pass necessary legislation.

This polarization trend isn't just an American problem. A recent report published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a global policy forum, indicates that over the past 30 years, middle class households worldwide have experienced dismal or no income growth. This has fueled perceptions that the current socio-economic system is unfair and has led to greater support for extreme left and right ideologies and politicians that embrace them.

But that's not all. Stated by the Pew Research Center, across 27 countries surveyed, 51% are dissatisfied with the way their democracy is functioning, compared with 45% who are satisfied.

It's time to take a deep breath and not buy into emotionally appealing solutions from populist leaders who often scapegoat trade and immigration as the causes of America's problems. In doing so, keep the following points in mind.

First, problems associated with rising income inequality, a shrinking middle class, and the inability to find meaningful work has much to do with lower and middle-skilled jobs being eliminated by automation and the increasing demand for higher skilled workers.

Moving forward, 14% of existing jobs could disappear as a result of automation in the next 15 to 20 years, plus another 32% are likely to change radically as individual tasks are automated, says a recent report by the OECD. Other organizations say nearly half of existing jobs could vanish, mostly affecting lower to middle-skilled workers.

To adapt, a well-educated labor force should be a top national priority equal to the effort that put a man on the moon. Importantly, students need the ability to pay for technical or university level educations without incurring unreasonable debt. And employees of all ages need to engage in life-long learning.

History reveals that after fast-emerging technologies destroy jobs, more new ones are created. Although we don't know what the new jobs will be, we do know they will require highly skilled workers.

Secondly, don't scapegoat trade.

Automation, not trade, accounted for more than 85% of U.S. job losses in manufacturing from 2000 through 2010, according to the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University. Although trade has contributed to some job losses, it has provided far greater benefits.

Today, nearly half of all U.S. exports are sold to our 20 free trade agreement partners—which only represent 6% of world consumers. To boost job-creating exports to the rest of the world,

See DON'T on next page

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Emmanuel Macron takes a closer look at Facebook

By LIONEL LAURENT
Bloomberg News

Lionel Laurent is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering Brussels. He previously worked at Reuters and Forbes*.*

Social networks such as YouTube and Facebook have the power to make content go "viral," spreading it at an unprecedented and uncontrollable pace. That seems innocent enough when you're looking at a cat video, but if it's murder, for example, the lack of a way of stopping the virus becomes glaring.

After the New Zealand mosque shootings were streamed live in March, attempts to remove the video from online platforms were shown to be hopeless. Facebook took it down 1.5 million times and it still reappeared. And it was put back up on YouTube every second for 24 hours, according to New Zealand's prime minister Jacinda Ardern, who's teaming up with French president Emmanuel Macron to try to tackle the plague of harmful online content.

The two leaders' initiative, known as the "Christchurch Call," is the start of a long process that will need to balance all sorts of issues – from freedom of speech to privacy. But for it to have any effect at all, policymakers must get under the hood of the social media companies' software and understand how content gets fed to viewers in the first place. While Macron has taken the encouraging first step of embedding government officials in Facebook's offices to monitor how it polices content, it's yet to be seen how far these people will grasp the technology or how great their access will be to the company's real "secret sauce": Its algorithms.

This is certainly an interesting change of direction, though. Much of the debate so far has been about how to get the tech giants to better regulate themselves. That has included deploying more human moderators to police content, beefing up artificial intelligence tools to stop bad stuff spreading, and "de-platforming" the worst online offenders. But it's been like fighting a forest fire with a water pistol. The heart of the problem lies with those dopamine-feeding algorithms.

Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Facebook Inc. are in the business of advertising, and it's their ability to grab the attention of their users that makes them so powerful and "sticky." For all the negative headlines about data breaches and toxic content over the past year, Facebook and YouTube still both reach about 2 billion users a month. That's because they're very good at three things: Knowing what users want, serving it to them automatically, and encouraging a feedback loop of engagement. This is all thanks to the constant fine tuning and updating of the algorithms that dictate content filtering, promotion and recommendations. The aim is to keep people on the website for as long as possible with minimal effort. It works: The human mind is no match for a supercomputer.

Where it all gets complicated is the potential business conflict between maximizing engagement, which is what advertisers (and shareholders) want, and minimizing extreme content, which is what politicians are demanding. For instance, if the network's goal is to increase time spent watching videos, is the problem that its algorithms will always promote content that's most likely to trigger an emotional reaction? If so, that's catnip for advertisers, but also for purveyors of noxious content.

And just how much control do these companies even have over what their black-box filters pump out? That is a question being asked by Ardern. The Christchurch killer's video was designed to go viral, with all of the emotional force that's so effective with the algorithms, and the social networks proved unable to stop it.

Facebook's founder Mark Zuckerberg has made much of his desire to "be regulated" to try to fix the problem of extreme content and fake news, but it's too early to say whether initiatives like Macron's will really be given the keys to the kingdom. Bruno Patino, dean of Sciences Po's journalism school, makes some useful new suggestions in his new book, "The Goldfish Civilization": Greater transparency on how the algorithms function, a more ethical approach to how they are designed in the first place, and a much clearer divide between advertising and content. If that leaves new media looking more like old media—and with a potential valuation discount to boot—it seems like a worthwhile price to pay.

A hug is not a #MeToo moment

By LYNNE AGRESS
The Baltimore Sun

Lynne Agress, who teaches in the Odyssey Program of Johns Hopkins, is president of BWB-Business Writing At Its Best Inc. and author of The Feminine Irony *and* Working With Words in Business and Legal Writing*.*

My old friend Clarinda signs her e-mails "Hugs, Cl," which I think is a warm and friendly way of closing a letter to people we especially like—good friends, specific co-workers, special neighbors—people with whom we have a positive and informal relationship. Since imitation is said to be the sincerest form of flattery, I have taken to signing many of my e-mails the same way.

Nevertheless, shortly before former Vice President Joe Biden announced his candidacy for president in 2020, two women came forward, claiming that Mr. Biden touched them in the past—on their head, on their shoulder – "invading their personal space," and they were angry! Other women came forward, explaining that Mr. Biden's touching them, hugging them, was comforting and supportive.

On "PBS News Hour," New York Times columnist David Brooks staunchly defended Mr. Biden, saying critics were "trying to impute his character on this. They're trying to insult the dignity and the intention which he goes about his life. And I think it's completely unfair." Mr. Brooks recounted a story of when he was a young reporter on Capital Hill and many Congress members used to touch him—"just put their arms on my shoulders and talk to me." He admitted he was initially taken aback because he was from a different generation and social class than they were, but eventually, he began to see the physicality as "a sign of connection and respect. ... They were really trying to meet me as a person."

Since then, Mr. Biden released a video saying he recognized that "the boundaries of protecting personal space have been reset," and he's been noticeably arms-length on the campaign trail—causing one woman in Nevada to holler out "You can hug and kiss me anytime, Joe," at an event earlier this month.

Who knew a hug could cause such an uproar?

Another example of hugging that different sides see as negative or positive, is the term "tree hugger," first used, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, in 1965. Its definition: "an environmentalist, an advocate of the preservation of woodlands." Many people, environmentalists, that is, believe in preserving trees and forests, and they enthusiastically espouse the term. However, others, especially developers, would rather cut down trees to build houses, commercial buildings, highways and so on; to them, "tree hugger" is pejorative.

What about the many studies that have proven time and again that infants who are not held closely, hugged and stroked, have trouble developing normally? This early contact promotes healthy psychological and physical development whereas babies not hugged have higher rates of illness and are less likely to thrive.

Further studies show that children as well as adults, especially when faced with stressful situations or actual trauma, benefit greatly from hugs.

Let's not confuse sexual assault with signs of friendship. What is lovelier than seeing an adult and a child holding hands or hugging—or a senior couple holding hands or hugging? Greeting someone you know with a warm encouraging hug is priceless.

As David Brooks said on PBS News Hour: "It wasn't a sexual thing. It was a connection thing."

DON'T

From Page 10

we need more, not fewer, free trade agreements.

Thirdly, immigrants don't steal American jobs, they help fill them.

Immigrants help fill vacant American jobs at all skill levels. But the worker shortage is getting worse. According to Korn Ferry, the U.S. skilled worker deficit could result in $1.75 trillion in lost revenue annually for American companies by 2030. In light of this, legal immigration should be expanded, not reduced.

Furthermore, American colleges and universities attract the best and brightest students the world has to offer. However, after graduation we send them home to compete against us. Allowing more foreign graduates to remain here to support our companies or start new ones would benefit our economy.

Immigrants also add to America's population and consumer base. Germany and Japan, for example, have negative population growth rates. This puts downward pressure on their economic prospects.

The United States has problems. But trade and immigration aren't to blame for them. Americans, as well as others around the world, need to look past the simplified and often emotionally-charged solutions presented by far right and far left-leaning populists or our problems will only get worse.

MACABRE

From Page 10

"unspeakable act of violence."

Marlen and Yovani's dream of a family of four is now a shattered dream.

The crime harks back to 1995, when Debra Evans, 28, of Addison, was murdered by a woman and two men who wanted to steal her unborn child. The trio shot Evans in the head, cut open her uterus, and removed the fetus. The child, Elijah, survived. Evans' two other children, a 10-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son, were also murdered. Evans' other young son, Jordan, survived unhurt. The trio were convicted for their roles.

C. Figueroa

D. Figueroa

Ochoa-Lopez

Bobak

As macabre as the details are, the horror of such tragedies also lies in the aftermath: how families are destroyed. Evans was raising two boys and a girl, with another boy on the way. Marlen had a boy and was preparing to have another son. Elijah and Jordan grew up without their mother. Marlen's 3-year-old son will have to grow up without his mother. How much emotional scarring will there be? How much counseling will it take to salve those wounds?

"Why did these people, why did these bad people do this? She did nothing to them," Yovani Lopez said of the accused.

The rest of Chicago is asking the same question: Why?

We hope the prosecution of those charged can provide an answer. If they're convicted, the courts can then issue punishment for such evil.

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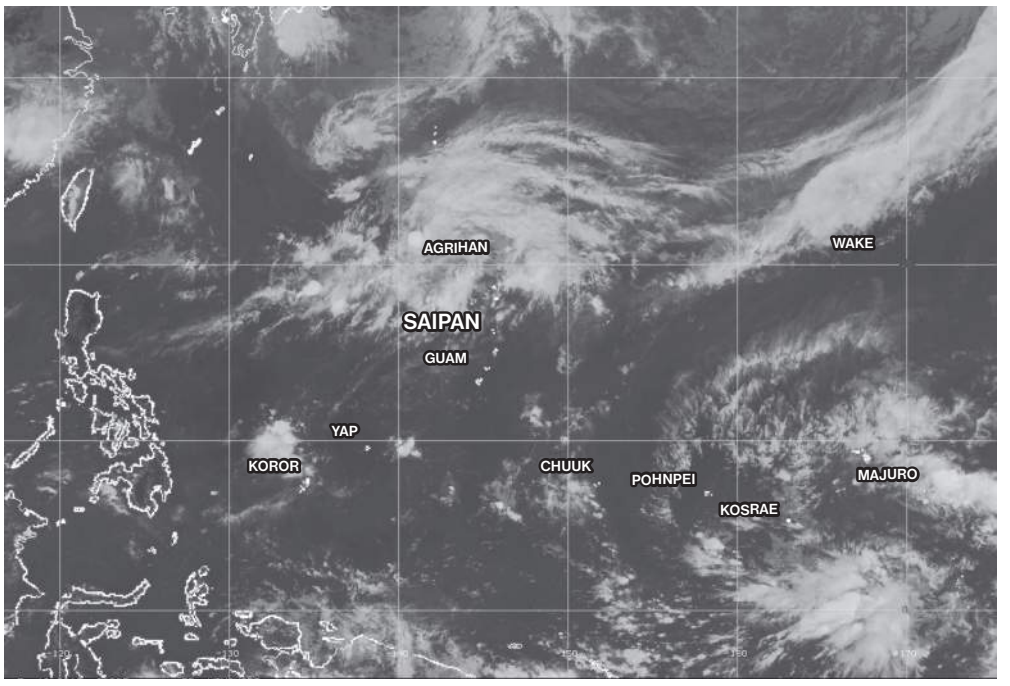
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
88° 78°	87° 77°	87° 77°	80° 70°	80° 70°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:01 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers, almost scattered, mainly west of the Marianas. The VAD wind profile indicates south-southeast winds of 8 to 12 knots through the lowest two thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 2 to 4 feet, composed of 2 foot east swell/wind waves and 2 to 3 foot north swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Yap	Mostly Sunny	88° / 81°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	93° / 61°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° /77°
Honolulu	Showers	86° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 50°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	65° / 55°
Manila	Thunderstorms	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	70° / 52°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
New York	Mostly Sunny	68° / 54°
Osaka	Sunny	77° / 61°
Paris	Thunderstorms	68° / 48°
Busan	Rain	75° / 59°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	91° / 68°
San Francisco	Showers	57° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	79° / 54°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 55°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
02:41 AM	LOW TIDE	1.02
7:41 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
2:59 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.40
9:52 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.95

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:45 AM	7:59 PM
Tuesday	-	7:35 AM	8:54 PM
Wednesday	-	8:27 AM	9:47 PM
Thursday	-	9:19 AM	10:37 PM
Friday	-	10:11 AM	11:23 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ62	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

DFS brings 'Boy London' brand to the CNMI

Svetlana Hunter, left, T Galleria assistant general manager for sales, and the models of British brand Boy London have their picture taken at the launch of the shop last Friday at the Excitement Zone of the T Galleria in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

Sletvana Hunter, T Galleria assistant general manager for sales, and DFS general manager Milan Rabold are flanked by Boy London models at the Boy London opening last Friday at the Excitement Zone of the T Galleria in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

DFS T Galleria Saipan has brought to Saipan the fashion-forward British brand "Boy London" with a launching ceremony last Friday at what the company bills as its Excitement Zone within the T Galleria mall in Garapan.

The launch of the Boy London kiosk was graced by not just residents and tourists alike and officials of DFS T Galleria, but also by several models who hobnobbed with the guest in a variety of Boy London outfits.

According to Svetlana Hunter, T Galleria's assistant general manager for sales, Boy London is a good addition to the new mix of stores that will eventually fill the T Galleria.

"We are trying to appeal to a wide range of customers—both locals and tourists alike—and that is why we are continuously renovating and adding new shops," she said.

She described Boy London as a legendary British streetwear brand known for its contribution to punk rock culture from the '70's up to today.

"Pop culture idols like Madonna, Billy Idol, [and] Depeche Mode wore this brand. …From punk rock fashion, it developed in time into a fashion subculture. Now it is worn by pop idol Rhianna, rapper Wiz Khalifa and a lot of K-Pop stars, which makes it more relevant to the generation now," she added.

Streetwear apparel range from cropped shirts, hooded jackets, and jogger pants, to shorts and accessories like caps and bags.

"The brand caters to a wide range of customers and not just the young generation" she said. In fact, the brand carries that islandwear vibe and style that are both trendy and colorful, Hunter added.

Boy London model Michelle Galang, who is a student at the Northern Marianas College, said the clothes are comfortable and definitely wearable on island.

"Each piece can be matched with anything. I encourage everyone out there to venture out to a new brand…the vibe is really cool, fun and will bring out one's carefree personality," she added.

Boy London at T Galleria currently has its spring/summer collection.

DJ Erika Pabalan sets the mood by playing house music at the Boy London opening last Friday at the Excitement Zone of the T Galleria in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

Guests Dee Clayton and Tama Salas attend the Boy London opening last Friday at the Excitement Zone of the T Galleria in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

DFS general manager Milan Rabold, left, is joined by guests at the Boy London opening last Friday at the Excitement Zone of the T Galleria in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

T Galleria assistant general manager for sales Svetlana Hunter poses with 2019 Miss Earth candidates at the Boy London opening last Friday at the Excitement Zone of the T Galleria in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

DFS supporters show their support at the Boy London opening last Friday at the Excitement Zone of the DFS T Galleria in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

DFS promotions manager Jamika Reyes Taijeron is joined by 2019 Miss Marianas candidates at the Boy London opening last Friday at the Excitement Zone of the T Galleria in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

Miss Marianas 2019 candidates grace the launch of the Boy London opening last Friday at the Excitement Zone of the DFS T Galleria in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

The Boy London kiosk is located at the Excitement Center of the T Galleria in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

AGAPE Christian School

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School Year 2018-2019

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CLASS OF 2019

K5 Graduate

Ratul Bhuya
K5 Graduate
Next Destination
First Grade
Agape Christian School

Middle School Graduates

Zhang, Mengxi (Elvira)
Valedictorian

Cao, Zhijie (Jason)
Salutatorian

Bao, Heng (Bobby)

Chen, Junyu (Eric)

Gan, Irene

Gao, Zesheng (Thomas)

He, Changbin (Samuel)

He, Linda Ping

Liu, Liang (Chloe)

Liu, Shuhan (Cherry)

Qi, Jie (Ray)

Song, Jiashen (Martin)

Tang, Yuxiao (Zoe)

Wang, Xinyi (Kristy)

Wu, Vivian Linzhi

Zhang, Enhui (Uni)

Zhang, Yurong (Ruth)

Zheng, Wenhao (David)

High School Graduates

Liang, Simeng (Judy)
Valedictorian
Next Destination
Major in English Education, Bob Jones University, South Crolina

Wang, Kaiping (Peter)
Salutatorian
Next Destination
Major in Mechanical Engineering, Bob Jones University, South Carolina

Chen, Haolong (John)
Next Destination
Major in Computer Science, Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Chen, Zehua (William)
Next Destination
Major in Business, Bob Jones University, South Carolina

Huang, Lujia (Luke)
Next Destination
Major in Computer Science, Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Huang, Zhicheng (Dempster)
Next Destination
Major in Electrical Engineering, Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Jin, Dandan (Kyra)
Next Destination
Major in Secondary Education, Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Jing, Long (James)
Next Destination
Major in Computer Science, Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Xing, Ao (Mars)
Next Destination
Major in Computer Science, Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Xiong, Lue (Jonathan)
Next Destination
Major in Cinema Production, Bob Jones University, South Carolina

Yang, Lechen (Nico)
Next Destination
Major in Engineering, Bob Jones University, South Carolina

Yu, Min (Amelia)
Next Destination
Major in Engineering, Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Yuan, Shubin (Jeremiah)
Next Destination
Major in Computer Engineering, Bob Jones University, South Carolina

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Business

China's ban on scrap imports a boon to US recycling plants

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The halt on China's imports of wastepaper and plastic that has disrupted U.S. recycling programs has also spurred investment in American plants that process recyclables.

U.S. paper mills are expanding capacity to take advantage of a glut of cheap scrap. Some facilities that previously exported plastic or metal to China have retooled so they can process it themselves.

And in a twist, the investors include Chinese companies that are still interested in having access to wastepaper or flattened bottles as raw material for manufacturing.

"It's a very good moment for recycling in the United States," said Neil Seldman, co-founder of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a Washington-based organization that helps cities improve recycling programs.

China, which had long been the world's largest destination for paper, plastic and other recyclables, phased in import restrictions in January 2018.

Global scrap prices plummeted, prompting waste-hauling companies to pass the cost of sorting and baling recyclables on to municipalities. With no market for the wastepaper and plastic in their blue bins, some communities scaled back or suspended curbside recycling programs.

New domestic markets offer a glimmer of hope.

About $1 billion in investment in U.S. paper processing plants has been announced in the past six months, according to Dylan de Thomas, a vice president at The Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit organization that tracks and works with the industry.

Hong Kong-based Nine Dragons, one of the world's largest producers of cardboard boxes, has invested $500 million over the past year to buy and expand or restart production at paper mills in Maine, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

In addition to making paper from wood fiber, the mills will add production lines turning more than a million tons of scrap into pulp to make boxes, said Brian Boland, vice president of government affairs and corporate initiatives for ND Paper, Nine Dragons' U.S. affiliate.

"The paper industry has been in contraction since the early 2000s," Boland said. "To see this kind of change is frankly amazing. Even though it's a Chinese-owned company, it's creating U.S. jobs and revitalizing communities like Old Town, Maine, where the old mill was shuttered."

The Northeast Recycling Council said in a report last fall that 17 North American paper mills had announced increased capacity to handle recyclable paper since the Chinese cutoff.

Another Chinese company, Global Win Wickliffe, is reopening a shuttered paper mill in Kentucky. Georgia-based Pratt Industries is constructing a mill in Wapakoneta, Ohio that will turn 425,000 tons of recycled paper per year into shipping boxes.

Plastics also has a lot of capacity coming online, de Thomas said, noting new or expanded plants in Texas, Pennsylvania, California and North Carolina that turn recycled plastic bottles into new bottles.

Chinese companies are investing in plastic and scrap metal recycling plants in Georgia, Indiana and North Carolina to make feedstocks for manufacturers in China, he said.

In New Brunswick, New Jersey, the recycling company GDB International exported bales of scrap plastic film such as pallet wrap and grocery bags for years. But when China started restricting imports, company president Sunil Bagaria installed new machinery to process it into pellets he sells profitably to manufacturers of garbage bags and plastic pipe.

He said the imports cutoff that China calls "National Sword" was a much-needed wake-up call to his industry.

"The export of plastic scrap played a big role in facilitating recycling in our country," Bagaria said. "The downside is that infrastructure to do our own domestic recycling didn't develop."

Now that is changing, though he said far more domestic processing capacity will be needed as a growing number of countries restrict scrap imports.

"Ultimately, sooner or later, the society that produces plastic scrap will become responsible for recycling it," he said.

Trump lifts tariffs on Mexico, Canada, delays auto tariffs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bogged down in a sprawling trade dispute with U.S. rival China, President Donald Trump took steps Friday to ease tensions with America's allies—lifting import taxes on Canadian and Mexican steel and aluminum and delaying auto tariffs that would have hurt Japan and Europe.

By removing the metals tariffs on Canada and Mexico, Trump cleared a key roadblock to a North American trade pact his team negotiated last year. As part of Friday's arrangement, the Canadians and Mexicans agreed to scrap retaliatory tariffs they had imposed on U.S. goods.

"I'm pleased to announce that we've just reached an agreement with Canada and Mexico, and we'll be selling our product into those countries without the imposition of tariffs, or major tariffs," Trump said in a speech to the National Association of Realtors.

In a joint statement, the U.S. and Canada said they would work to prevent cheap imports of steel and aluminum from entering North America. The provision appeared to target China, which has long been accused of flooding world markets with subsidized metal, driving down world prices and hurting U.S. producers. The countries could also reimpose the tariffs if they faced a "surge" in steel or aluminum imports.

In Washington, some were urging Trump to take advantage of the truce with U.S. allies to get even tougher with China.

"China is our adversary," said Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb. "Canada and Mexico are our friends. The president is right to increase pressure on China for their espionage, their theft of intellectual property, and their hostility toward the rule of law. The president is also right to be deescalating tension with our North American allies."

Earlier Friday, the White House said Trump is delaying for six months any decision to slap tariffs on foreign cars, a move that would have hit Japan and the Europe especially hard.

Trump still is hoping to use the threat of auto tariffs to pressure Japan and the European Union into making concessions in ongoing trade talks. "If agreements are not reached within 180 days, the president will determine whether and what further action needs to be taken," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement.

Nation

Arnulfo Ochoa, the father of Marlen Ochoa-Lopez, is surrounded by family members and supporters, as he walks into the Cook County medical examiner's office to identify his daughter's body, Thursday, May 16, 2019 in Chicago. AP

Illinois not alerted to early clues in womb-cutting case

CHICAGO (AP)—Police and Illinois' child welfare agency say staff at a Chicago-area hospital didn't alert them after determining that a bloodied woman who arrived with a gravely ill newborn had not just given birth to the baby boy, as she claimed.

The woman, Clarisa Figueroa, was charged more than three weeks later with killing the baby's mother , Marlen Ochoa-Lopez, after police found her body outside Figueoa's home. Chicago police say she cut Ochoa-Lopez's baby out of her womb on April 23, then called 911 to report she had given birth to a baby who wasn't breathing. Paramedics took Figueroa and the baby to Advocate Christ Medical Center in suburban Oak Lawn.

Ochoa-Lopez's family spent those weeks searching for her and holding press conferences pleading for help finding her, unaware the child was in a neonatal intensive care unit on life support.

The baby remained hospitalized on life support on Saturday, according to authorities.

Prosecutors say that when Figueroa was brought with the baby to the hospital, she had blood on her upper body and her face, which a hospital employee cleaned off. They also say Figueroa, 46, was examined at the hospital and showed no physical signs of childbirth.

Advocate Christ Medical Center has declined to say whether or when it contacted authorities, citing state and federal regulations. Oak Lawn police said they were not contacted about Figueroa by the medical center or any other agency.

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services spokesman Jassen Strokosch said Saturday the agency was alerted May 9 that there were questions about who had custody of the child in order to make medical decisions. He said he couldn't speculate about why the agency wasn't contacted sooner.

"We don't know what was happening at the hospital," he said.

Strokosch said the Department of Children and Family Services was alerted by someone required by law to contact the department about suspected abuse or neglect, but he couldn't say who contacted the agency.

However, that was after Chicago police had connected Figueroa to Ochoa-Lopez's disappearance.

Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said police learned Ochoa-Lopez was missing when her husband reported it on April 24. On May 7, Chicago police learned from one of Ochoa-Lopez's friends that she had been communicating via a private Facebook group with Figueroa about buying clothing. Police then went to Figueroa's home, where her 24-year-old daughter eventually told them her mother had recently had a baby.

Missouri's GOP-led Legislature passes 8-week abortion ban

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—Missouri's Republican-led House on Friday passed sweeping legislation designed to survive court challenges, which would ban abortions at eight weeks of pregnancy.

If enacted, the ban would be among the most restrictive in the U.S. It includes exceptions for medical emergencies, but not for pregnancies caused by rape or incest. Doctors would face five to 15 years in prison for violating the eight-week cutoff. Women who receive abortions wouldn't be prosecuted.

Republican Gov. Mike Parson pledged to sign the bill, but it's unclear when he'll take action. When pressed on the lack of exceptions, he told reporters that "all life has value."

The Missouri legislation comes after Alabama's governor signed a bill Wednesday making performing an abortion a felony in nearly all cases.

Supporters say the Alabama bill is meant to conflict with the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationally in hopes of sparking a court case that might prompt the current panel of more conservative justices to revisit abortion rights.

Missouri Republicans are taking a different approach.

GOP Rep. Nick Schroer said his legislation is "made to withstand judicial challenges and not cause them."

He cited extensive "legislative findings" included in the bill about fetal development that are aimed at backing up the state's interest in limiting abortion if the measure is challenged, as well as new judges appointed to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by President Donald Trump.

Asia

OVER TRASH SHIPMENTS

PH recalls envoys in Canada

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines is recalling its ambassador and consuls in Canada over Ottawa's failure to comply with a deadline to take back truckloads of garbage that Filipino officials say were illegally shipped to the Philippines years ago, officials said Thursday.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. tweeted that the Philippines "shall maintain a diminished diplomatic presence in Canada until its garbage is ship bound there." The drastic move is the latest strain in Philippine relations with Canada under President Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte threatened last month to forcibly ship the containers of garbage back to Canada and dump some at its embassy in Manila if Canadian officials don't take back the waste. Officials later set a May 15 deadline for Canada to comply.

Locsin said in his tweet that letters for the recall of the Philippine ambassador and consuls in Canada have been sent and that they were expected back in Manila after about a day.

"That recall shows that we are very serious in asking them to get back their garbage otherwise we're gonna severe relations with them," presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo told a regular news conference.

At least 103 containers of household trash, including plastic bottles and bags, newspapers and diapers, were shipped in batches from Canada to the Philippines from 2013 to 2014. Most of the shipping containers remain in two ports in Manila and northern Subic freeport, sparking protests from environmental activists. Philippine officials say they were falsely declared by a private firm as recyclable plastic scraps and have asked Canada to take back the garbage.

Duterte raised the garbage issue in a speech last month while officials from both countries were already discussing a resolution to the issue. The volatile president said he was ready to "declare war" against Canada over the issue.

"I want a boat prepared. I'll give a warning to Canada maybe next week that they better pull that thing out or I will set sail to Canada and pour their garbage there," Duterte said, adding he would ask Canadian officials to "prepare a grand reception."

"Celebrate because your garbage is coming home," he said. "Eat it if you want to."

Canada said it has repeatedly expressed its commitment to promptly shipping and disposing of the Canadian waste.

"Canada is disappointed by this decision to recall the Philippines ambassador and consuls general," said Brittany Fletcher, a spokeswoman for Canada's foreign affairs department. "However, we will continue to closely engage with the Philippines to ensure a swift resolution of this important issue."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada has been working with officials in the Philippines on the issue "over the past months, very hard over the past weeks."

"We very much hope to get a resolution on this shortly," he said.

ASIA BRIEFS

Gay couples plan mass weddings after Taiwan legalizes unions

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Gay couples in Taiwan plan a mass wedding registration after lawmakers voted to legalize same-sex marriage, a first in Asia and a boost for LGBT rights activists who had championed the cause for two decades. Legislators pressured by LGBT groups as well as by church organizations opposed to the move on Friday approved most of a government-sponsored bill that recognizes same-sex marriages and gives couples many of the tax, insurance and child custody benefits available to male-female married couples. That makes Taiwan the first place in Asia with a comprehensive law both allowing and laying out the terms of same-sex marriage. Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, a supporter of the law, tweeted: "On May 17th, 2019 in Taiwan, LoveWon. We took a big step toward true equality, and made Taiwan a better country." "It's a breakthrough, I have to say so," said Shiau Hong-chi, professor of gender studies and communications management at Shih-Hsin University in Taiwan.

Australia's conservative coalition wins surprise 3rd term

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's ruling conservative coalition won a surprise victory in the country's general election on Saturday, defying opinion polls that had tipped the center-left opposition party to oust it from power and promising an end to the revolving door of national leaders. "I have always believed in miracles," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told a jubilant Sydney crowd. He compared his Liberal Party's victory for a third three-year term to the births of his daughters, Abbey, 11, and Lily, 9, who were conceived naturally after 14 years of in vitro fertilization had failed. His wife, Jenny Morrison, suffered endometriosis. "I'm standing with the three biggest miracles in my life here tonight, and tonight we've been delivered another one," he said, embraced by his wife and daughters. Opposition leader Bill Shorten had earlier conceded defeat as the coalition came close to a majority in the 151-seat House of Representatives, where parties need a majority to form a government. Vote counting was to continue on Sunday.

Coin toss settles rare Philippine election tie

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine election officials settled a rare tie in a mayoral race on Friday by tossing a coin. They proclaimed Sue Cudilla the new mayor of the town of Araceli in western Palawan province after she won a best-of-three coin flip by picking tails. Both Cudilla, a former mayor, and her rival, incumbent Noel Beronio, received 3,495 votes in Monday's election. They agreed to the classic tie-breaker, which officials said is acceptable although local rules specify the drawing of lots. Elections Commissioner Luie Tito Guia said a coin toss was also used to settle another freak mayoral tie in 2016. "I'm praying very hard that the will expressed by the people will always be accepted," Guia said by telephone. More than 43,500 candidates vied for about 18,000 congressional and local posts, including 81 governors, 1,634 mayors and more than 13,500 city and town councilors in 81 provinces in the May 13 elections in the Philippines, one of Asia's most rambunctious democracies.

World

Venezuela's opposition leader and self-proclaimed interim president Juan Guaidó speaks during a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce, in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, May 16, 2019. AP

Mediation in Norway aims to resolve Venezuela crisis

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving Venezuela's crisis accelerated on Thursday as the government and opposition sent envoys to talks in Norway, though the two sides' mutual mistrust and differences on key issues could prevent any quick solution. The Norwegian attempt to mediate comes amid tensions that exploded in street violence when the opposition called in vain for a military uprising on April 30.

Details about the closely guarded process, including whether direct talks between envoys from opposing camps were on the agenda, were scarce. Norway, in a foreign ministry statement, confirmed that it had preliminary contacts with Venezuelan envoys and that it was ready to continue supporting efforts for a peaceful solution.

The initiative coincides with other outreach efforts: Opposition leader Juan Guaidó said in Caracas that he planned to meet a delegation from a mostly European group of nations, and Venezuelan television showed Maduro meeting separately with the same delegation from the International Contact Group.

Also, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland met in Havana with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez, who tweeted that Cuba was prepared to contribute to dialogue on Venezuela.

The myriad diplomatic efforts reflect a recognition in Venezuela that neither side has been able to prevail in the struggle for power, leaving the country in a state of political paralysis after years of hyperinflation and shortages of food and medicine.

"You don't negotiate because you want to. You negotiate because you have to," said Geoff Ramsey, a Venezuela researcher at the nongovernmental Washington Office on Latin America.

"It's become pretty clear neither has been able to impose their dominant strategy on the other," he said.

Norway has a long, successful history of foreign mediation: The country hosted peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians in September 1993, and the Philippines government and Maoist rebels in 2011. The government also brokered a 2002 cease-fire between Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebel negotiators. Seven years ago, negotiators from the Colombian government and left-wing FARC rebels held their first direct talks in a decade in Norway.

Guaidó confirmed that envoys were in Norway, but warned that the opposition won't enter into any "false negotiation."

He said any talks must lead to the end of President Nicolás Maduro's government, its replacement by a transitional administration and free and fair elections.

In Iran, economic struggles trump fears of US confrontation

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Across Iran's capital, the talk always seems to come back to how things may get worse.

Battered by U.S. sanctions and its depreciating rial currency, Iran's 80 million people struggle to buy meat, medicine and other staples of daily life. Now they wonder aloud about America's intentions as it rushes an aircraft carrier and other forces to the region over a still-unexplained threat it perceives from Iran.

The Associated Press spoke to a variety of people on Tehran's streets recently, ranging from young and old, women wearing the all-encompassing black chador to those loosely covering their hair.

Most say they believe a war will not come to the region, though they remain willing to defend their country. They think Iran should try to talk to the U.S. to help its anemic economy, even as they see President Donald Trump as an erratic and untrustworthy adversary.

"Trump is not predictable at all and one doesn't know how to react to him and what is the right thing to do against him," said Afra Hamedzadeh, a 20-year-old civil servant and university student. "Since he controls the global economy we are somehow left with few options."

But opinions vary across Iran's capital, Tehran, depending on whether you speak to someone coming out of Friday prayers, in the back of a shared taxi cab, or exiting the coffee shops popular with young people.

"If America could do anything, it would have done many things by now," said the chador-wearing Zoherh Sadeghi, a 51-year-old housewife coming out of prayers. "It can't do anything. It can't do a damn thing."

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Why it matters that Weight Watchers pivots toward wellness

By ALISON BOWEN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Forget watching your weight. Think bigger.

Weight Watchers announced recently that it's rebranding to make those W's stand instead for Wellness that Works. In a statement from the company, now known as WW, President Mindy Grossman said it wants to build on its reputation as a weight-management program.

"No matter what your goal is—to lose weight, eat healthier, move more, develop a positive mindset or all of the above—we will deliver science-based solutions," she said.

Oprah Winfrey, an investor in the company who has appeared in commercials promoting it, added that she believes the new impact could go "far beyond a number on the scale."

But does it really matter that the company is switching its focus, at least within its promotional materials, from the scale to overall wellness?

Northwestern Memorial Hospital dietitian Bethany Doerfler said she finds the switch encouraging. It will model the conversations she has with her patients—which are about not simply avoiding one food or focusing on one thing, but instead focusing on their overall health beyond weight.

"I think it's fabulous," she said. "I personally like my patients to think about their whole mind-body connection when they're making a lifestyle change, not just what they're eating, but their sleep, their stress levels, their exercise regimen."

Changing the name to focus away from weight sways a person's focus away from simply dieting.

"People can't do everything perfectly all at once, but I do think we need to get away from this idea of dieting at any cost," she said.

When she sees patients, she asks things like: How much stress are you under? How much sleep are you getting? Not every question needs to be about how many cheeseburgers a person ate.

"We're not just looking at what people are eating. We're looking at how they're eating, and how you eat also means you have to consider psychological wellness, exercise and sleep."

Doerfler was also encouraged by the company's move toward rewarding behaviors other than food—for example, the new WellnessWins program rewards members for tracking meals or activities; they can also now get points for exercise. And the rebranding encourages use of meditation apps like Headspace, a new partner.

A wellness journey that begins by thinking about health holistically can create changes that last longer than something anchored around a food pattern, Doerfler added.

"Sustainable weight change requires a lifestyle change," she said. "And it's difficult to create a lifestyle change if you're only focused on one element, which is calories in or calories out or weight loss at any cost."

Planning for successful weight loss

Dear Mayo Clinic: My mother, age 64, has been on a weight-loss roller coaster for years. She will stick to a strict diet for many months, sometimes losing 50 pounds or more. Then, those eating habits fade, she gains all the weight back and feels terrible about it. Right now, she's quite overweight again and is thinking about starting another big diet. Would moderate weight-loss she can sustain long term, even if it doesn't get her to an ideal weight, be healthier than these extremes?

A: Your mother's pattern of weight loss and regain—weight cycling—is very common. Because she hasn't had success keeping weight off in the past, it would be a good idea for her to use a different approach. Rather than following a strict diet, adopting healthy, ongoing lifestyle changes would be a more effective way for your mother to lose weight, improve her health and maintain her weight loss long term.

The typical approach to losing weight uses a dieter's mentality. People follow a restrictive program that forces them to always limit what they eat. This type of strict diet often makes people feel deprived. When dietary habits are negative and restrictive, they're likely to be temporary. Eventually, people feel they can't keep it up any more, so they abandon their efforts and often gain back any weight they lost.

Contrary to what many people think, this cycle of losing and gaining weight does not increase a person's risk for health problems. In addition, weight cycling does not make it more difficult to lose weight again. That said, weight cycling can be very frustrating and undermine a person's self-confidence and self-esteem.

There is a more effective approach. First, one of the most important steps to successful weight loss is planning. Before you make any changes, set goals. Beyond sustained weight loss, do you want to feel better? Do you want to decrease health risks? Do you want to be able to be more active? If you decide on those goals first, you may find that you realize them as you make healthy lifestyle changes—even if you don't reach a specific number on the scale. Reaching those goals may be motivating enough to help you maintain your changes.

Once you set your goals, think about lifestyle changes that can help you achieve them. You should be able to incorporate these changes into your daily life, so they become long-term habits. Try to make them specific, realistic and positive. For example, you could say, "I'm going to start walking 15 minutes a day, three days a week," or "I'm going to eat one more serving of fruits and one more serving of vegetables each day." As you achieve those changes, continue to build on them. It is possible to decrease calories, follow a practical and tasty dietary pattern, and feel good at the same time.

Mayo Clinic has a program based on these principles. The Mayo Clinic Diet decreases calories, but instead of taking a negative and restrictive approach, we encourage people to eat healthy, tasty food. By changing the way people eat in a positive manner—for example, they can eat as many fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables as they want—the Mayo Clinic Diet emphasizes a healthier, lower-calorie pattern of eating that is practical, enjoyable and sustainable. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network)***

HEALTHY LIVING

5 and 5 for breakfast

A light, healthy breakfast can keep you from overeating at lunch.

5 grams of protein
Such as 1/2 cup of fat-free milk; leads to a slow increase in blood sugar; does not stimulate hunger later

5 grams of fiber
Such as piece of fruit, a slice of whole-grain bread; makes stomach feel full longer

Source: WebMD, TNS Photo Service

Life & Style

Arnold is assaulted during event in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger was assaulted during a public appearance in South Africa on Saturday, but the 71-year-old quickly recovered and said, "I'm just glad the idiot didn't interrupt my Snapchat."

Video shows the former California governor standing and filming children at a sporting event in Johannesburg when a man makes a flying kick into his back. Schwarzenegger stumbles forward. The man is quickly grabbed by security. Off camera a man shouts several times "Help me!"

Schwarzenegger

The video shortly afterward shows Schwarzenegger smiling and shaking hands with bystanders before walking out ringed by security.

Schwarzenegger later posted on Twitter: "Thanks for your concerns, but there is nothing to worry about. I thought I was just jostled by the crowd, which happens a lot. I only realized I was kicked when I saw the video like all of you. I'm just glad the idiot didn't interrupt my Snapchat."

Schwarzenegger also tweeted a second video of the incident "without whatever he was yelling so he doesn't get the spotlight."

"By the way..." he joked, "block or charge?"

Schwarzenegger had been attending his Arnold Classic Africa event, which features dozens of sports and fitness activities. In a separate Twitter post, the event blamed a "crazed fan" for the assault.

The statement cited organizer Wayne Price as saying the assailant was "known to the police for orchestrating similar incidents in the past" and that Schwarzenegger was "fine and still in good spirits."

The actor confirmed he had no intention of pursuing charges and would continue with another appearance on Sunday as planned, the statement said.

The Netherlands wins Eurovision

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—The Netherlands won the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv Saturday, with Duncan Laurence's doleful piano ballad "Arcade" crowned champion of Europe's annual music extravaganza.

The 25-year-old was tapped as an early front-runner before the Grand Final but was only ranked third after the vote of professional juries from the 41 participating countries, trailing Sweden and North Macedonia. He surged ahead thanks to the fan vote, securing The Netherlands its fifth win ever in the competition. Italy finished second, followed by Russia, Switzerland and Norway.

"This is to dreaming big. This is to music first, always," Laurence said, as he was handed the trophy from last year's winner, Israel's Netta Barzilai.

Some 200 million people around the world were believed to have watched the annual campy contest with 26 nations battling in the Grand Final of the 64th Eurovision.

Madonna was the star attraction, performing her hit staple, "Like a Prayer," marking 30 years since its release, and a new song "Future" from her forthcoming album "Madame X." She took the stage after participants wrapped up their performances shortly after midnight when the elaborate voting process got underway across Europe.

To maximize onscreen tension, performers are ranked by a mix of fan votes and professional juries. Spectators could not vote for their own country, but like-minded nations tend to fall into blocs that back their regional favorites, with politics meshing into art.

The Eurovision debuted in the wake of World War II to heal a divided continent. Over the years, the earnest show of European unity has ballooned into an over-the-top, gay-friendly spectacle that brings together acts from across the continent, including those with little or no connection to Europe, such as Australia.

Israel earned the right to host the show after Barzilai won last year's competition with her catchy pop anthem "Toy."

The ostensibly non-political affair has tried to avoid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has largely succeeded, despite swirling threats of controversy. Calls for performers to boycott the show over Israeli policies toward Palestinians failed to generate much momentum.

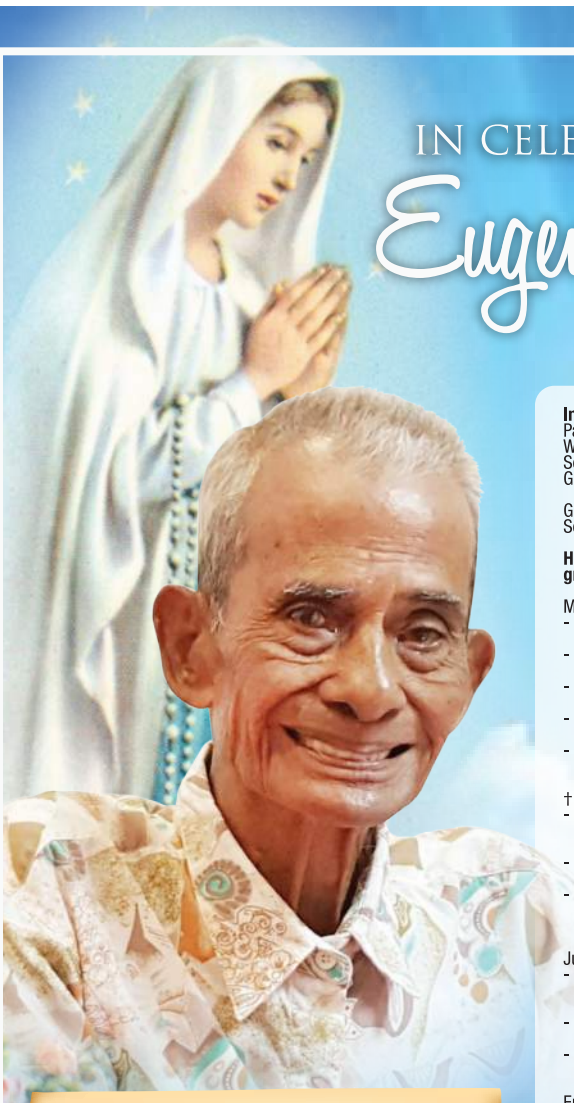
A small protest took place outside Tel Aviv's Expo Center before the show, following another one from musicians in Gaza earlier in the week. A recent round of rocket fire toward Israel from there also failed to temper excitement.

Madonna herself had faced calls from a Palestinian-led campaign to avoid performing at the event in Israel. But the Queen of Pop rejected the boycott motions, saying she will "never stop playing music to suit someone's political agenda." Still, two of her embracing dancers sported the flags of Israel and the Palestinians on their backs.

All eyes were on Iceland's controversial steampunk band Hatari, which had drawn attention for initially saying it would be "absurd" to participate in Israel because of its policies toward the Palestinians. They had vowed to use the Eurovision spotlight to expose the "face of the occupation," but their live performance of grinding metal rock passed without incident. Only at the end of the broadcast, when their final vote tally was announced, did they whip out a Palestinian flag, to sounds of boos from the audience.

For Israel, the mega event offered a much-anticipated opportunity to put its good face forward and project an image of normalcy to the world. Israel-themed promotional clips featuring each of the participants dancing in various scenic locations across the country streamed before each performance to a TV audience expected to be larger than that of the Super Bowl.

The event itself was being hosted by a quartet of Israeli celebrities, including top model Bar Refaeli. Israel's own Wonder Woman Gal Gadot also made a cameo video appearance. The Tel Aviv hall was packed with thousands of screaming fans, while tens of thousands gathered to watch the final at the city-sponsored Eurovision village in Tel Aviv and at public screenings elsewhere.



IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE:

Eugenio Arriola Borja

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS "ENU TUHU"
DATE OF BIRTH: DECEMBER 13, 1928
DIED ON: MAY 13, 2019

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Ignacio Diaz Borja and †Ana Arriola Borja
Wife: †Rosa Camacho Borja
Son: †Ignacio C. Borja
Grandchildren: †Eusebio Jr. C. Borja, †Jonathan Borja Namauleg
Greatgrandchildren: †Ayana C. Borja
Son-in-law: †Jose B. Avila,Jr.

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grand children:

Manuel C. & Angelina A. Borja
- Gerldine A. Borja & Frankie B. Angel
  - Jaylina/Jesus (Jonae & Jayda), Jaydine, Frankie Jr., Tiffany
- Bernadine A. Borja & Fernando A. Benavente
  - Kaisha (Angelina II), Kernalina/Kevin, Kayliesha, Kiara, Keeden Juan
- Esterlita A. Borja & Felix Jonathan M. Camacho
  - Pernalynn, Delia, Felix Jonathan II, Ezikiel, Ramon Jose
- Rose Marie A. Borja & Vicente M. Pangelinan
  - Manuel II, Vincent Jr., Damian, Zoey, Naveah, Chloe, Angelina, Alei'a
- Stephanie A. Borja
  - Rufino Jr., Stevahnie, Stehanie

†Ignacio C. & Jacinta A. Borja
- Geraldine Sablan
  - Jevon & Amber (Caleb, Analeah), Shirleen & Joshua (Jahkoa, Xavier), Kaeanna (Landon), Travis
- Marlynn & Steven Castro
  - Hiram, Miah, Carter, Isabella
- Lorraine & Scott Pinaula
  - Jake & Kayla (Ryder, Avery & Kaden), Jarene & Do Ivan Mendiola (Janeya), Elbert, Joedy

Justina C. Borja
- Arlene B. & Joseph Takai
  - Vincent & Frances (RJ), Napu, †Johnathan, Joshua, Gilbert Leonard, Matua, Maisa Maria
- Healani T. & Warren Hikuro
  - Terina,Terau
- Janice B. Tengan & Christopher Lorenzo
  - Taylan, Christian

Eusebio C. & Margarita C. Borja
- Ann Borja & Max Cruz
  - †Ayanna, Tyrez, Max Jr., Taylor
- † Eusebio Castro Borja Jr.
- Eugene Derek Castro & Carolyn Sablan Borja
  - Clayton Jesse, Clayanna Jaysavia, Eugene Derek II, Cardi Javior, Chance Peyton
- Rose Marie Borja & Micheal Fields
  - Arryianna, Chloe

Auria B. Avila & Paul Manglona & †Jose Avila
- Georgia Camacho Borja
- Michelle Borja Avila & Zachary Flores (Myla Grace)

Olivia B. & Augustin Aldan
- Allen Aldan & Ana Villagomez
  - Allen II, Austine, Aundray, Ausi, Alivia
- Steven Aldan & Kollin DLG
  - Dolores, †Korina Enrique, Steven, Aulina
- Joaquin Duenas
- Maria Manibusan

Francisco C. Borja & †Margarita A. Ishii
- Jade Alan Junior Mori Ayuyu Ishii & Randeilyn Nicole Bowman
- Rose Janet Ayuyu Ishii

Flavia C. Borja & Rodney Perez
- Peter Joe Deleon Guerrero & Adeline Tereyama
  - Ha'ani, Miara, Peyton, Ayden, Ayleina
- Vanessa Dlg. & Nick Reyes
  - Alana Pauline Reyes, Nick Emmanuel III, Connor
- Russel Eugene Borja
- Saleena & Jason Pablo
- Sabrina Perez
  - Raiyu
- Rodney Perez Jr.
- Derek Perez

Ana B. & Almondo C. Santos
- Kasandra Borja Santos
  - Alana Roseline Borja Santos

Vicente C. Borja
- Quiyonni Chai Bojra
  - Johnathan
- Tavon K. & Keisha Borja
- Carter B. Borja

Special Friend: OTOSAN will be forever missed by his special little friend: Kazu Kamegai

Nightly mass is being offered at 6pm at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman except on Sunday at 8:30am, followed by a nightly rosary at 7pm at his residence in Santa Lourdes, AsTeo.

On Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 730am his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Homes to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Funeral Mass will be at 11am followed by Christian Burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay
The Family

An emotional send-off for lovable geeks of 'Big Bang Theory'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Big Bang Theory" closed out its run as television's top-rated comedy with an emotional final episode that saw some big changes for the show's group of geeky misfits.

The long-running series on CBS concluded with two final episodes, "The Change Constant" and "The Stockholm Syndrome," in an hour-long finale Thursday evening. The series exited the airwaves with the most episodes for a multi-camera series ever with 279 episodes. It edged past NBC's "Cheers," which aired for 12 seasons and 275 episodes.

Thursday's finale was followed by a behind-the-scenes look at the show in "Unraveling the Mystery: A Big Bang Farewell" with Johnny Galecki, who played Leonard, and Kaley Cuoco, who played Penny, as hosts.

During the finale, the show's friends took one last trip together to support married couple Sheldon (Jim Parsons) and Amy (Mayim Bialik) after they won the Nobel Prize in physics. The couple waited anxiously by the phone while friends prank called them before receiving the actual decision.

The final episodes were filled with a few surprises including news of Penny's pregnancy, a surprise cameo from Sarah Michelle Gellar and the elevator finally being fixed after it had been broken for much of the series.

It included a scene in which Bialik, who is a neuroscientist in real life, urges young girls to pursue careers in science during her Nobel acceptance speech. "Little girls who dream about science" should ignore naysayers, she said.

The often self-absorbed Sheldon followed with his own heartfelt speech about the importance of friendship in the series' emotional conclusion.

"The Big Bang Theory" debuted in 2007 and overcame early doubts to become a cult classic after some questioned the show's chances of survival. With its live audience and use of multiple cameras, the series is a throwback to comedies from the early days of television, but its formula proved popular.

The show was led by a crew of nerdy misfits starring Parsons, Cuoco, Galecki, Bialik, Simon Helberg, Kunal Nayyar and Melissa Rauch.

It won 10 Emmy Awards, including four for Parsons.

The comedy leaves on a high as one of television's most popular shows. Last week's episode was the most-watched program on broadcast or cable TV with 12.5 million viewers, beating out HBO's "Game of Thrones," which ends its series on Sunday after an eight-year run.

Parsons has said the end of the series feels like a "real rite of passage moment," which was full of memories and some tears. Galecki said the show has touched "so many hearts."

Fire, ice and fate: Endgames arrive for 'Game of Thrones'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When season eight of "Game of Thrones" began, The Associated Press examined the arcs of the major characters who had survived the bloody series until its final season. With Sunday's finale of the HBO show looming, here's an update on where those characters stand after an action-packed season of zombie-mobbing, dragon-torching and secret-revealing. Will Daenerys end up ruling the Seven Kingdoms? Jon? Sansa? No one? And how many really want to anymore? Warning: MAJOR SPOILERS throughout.

AP

his combination photo of images released by HBO shows Emilia Clarke portraying Daenerys Targaryen in "Game of Thrones."

DAENERYS TARGARYEN

Is there anything more powerful than the Mother of Dragons aboard her favorite son firebombing the city of King's Landing into oblivion? Maybe the fan backlash. Daenerys went from flawed heroine to heel in the season's penultimate episode. That spawned Twitter outrage, a petition demanding a do-over, and perhaps regret among the hundreds of American parents who, according to the Social Security Administration, named their daughters Daenerys or Khaleesi back when she was breaking chains instead of burning innocents. Many viewers, however, thought it a logical, even inevitable, turn of events. The daughter of the Mad King had just seen her best friend beheaded, her longest-serving retainer killed in battle, and her cherished birthright cast in doubt by the man she loves. Now, having conquered the capital, with a ruthless army still intact and her dragon seemingly unstoppable, she has everything she once wanted, except Westeros' love. Having horrified her closest allies, will she hang on to it all? Fall to the sword of an angry Stark? Can her conscience return as quickly as it left?

JON SNOW

Is it possible that after eight seasons, Jon Snow still knows nothing? Even after he rose to become lord commander of the Night's Watch, united enemies to fight the army of the dead, came back from death himself, and learned he's not a bastard but a Targaryen who should be heir to what's left of the Iron Throne, Jon appears to be as confused and aimless as when he began. He refused to force his birthright, yielding power to his queen, aunt and apparent ex-girlfriend Daenerys, and then watched helplessly as she burned King's Landing and most of its inhabitants. Will he find a way to rise once more and fight back against this destroyer version of Dany? Will he use his newfound dragon-riding skills to somehow hijack Drogon into triumph? Such a heroic end would require more of him, but the narrative of the show has never given up on Jon.

ARYA STARK

Arya could have wandered into the woods and disappeared halfway through the season and she would have retired a legend. She used her years of assassin training to kill the Night King when all seemed lost at the Battle of Winterfell, snatching the savior-of-humanity role from her big brother Jon Snow. She's killed most of those responsible for her mother and brother's slaughter at the Red Wedding. She even lost her virginity on her terms in a moment of mature empowerment rarely afforded to women in this world. (The thousands of parents who named their daughter Arya are feeling just fine.) But her role has become uncertain since. She turned away from her attempt to assassinate Queen Cersei in the last episode, and seemed to have sworn off a life of revenge. But then she became a firsthand witness to Daenerys' atrocities. Is there one last name on her kill list?

SANSA STARK

Sansa sat out the last episode, and she chose the right one to miss, staying safely in the flame-free North at her family home. As the show's ultimate survivor—and the character who has grown and learned the most since she started as a prissy princess in waiting—it is easy to imagine her as ruler of an independent Winterfell should the finale play out that way. But the major figures of Dany and Jon still stand above her—and in her way.

'

BRAN STARK

In the show's first episode, Bran was forced to behold a beheading. Since then, seeing things has become his specialty. He's become desensitized to looking on such horrors, assuming a mystical role as the Three-Eyed Raven, timeless seer of all. He's played a crucial role at various points in the story this season, revealing to his Jon his true identity, luring the Night King for his sister Arya to kill, and dispensing some essential bits of wisdom. But it's hard to imagine him doing anything other than meditating into snowy eternity as the series ends.

TYRION LANNISTER

Tyrion has become an expert at survival and reinvention, but as Hand of the Queen he has failed miserably this season in trying to rein in Daenerys and steer her toward diplomacy over destruction. He was technically still in Daenerys' service when the last episode ended, and in one of very few images revealed of the finale, he is shown walking through the ruins of the city. He could take one last stab at counseling the seemingly now-mad queen, or maybe use his proximity to her to attempt a literal last stab and sacrifice himself to save the realm.

CERSEI LANNISTER

Cersei stayed at the center of the action for the first seven seasons but had nearly nothing to do in the eighth, watching from a window and drinking wine as her fate played out. Part of this was by her own design—she and her army sat out the Battle of Winterfell with hopes her rivals would be so weakened by the army of the dead that she could hang on to her kingdom. Never a leader who inspired loyalty, she tried to use human shields to hang on to her throne. But Daenerys turned out to be just as ruthless, and that meant Cersei's end.

JAIME LANNISTER

Jaime found his redemption this season, then decided he didn't want it. He defied his twin sister Cersei and fought gallantly with his former enemies the Starks against the army of the dead. He used his own knighthood to bestow knight status on Brienne of Tarth in one of the most tear-jerking moments in the entire series. Then he and Brienne, who always brought out the best in him, became unlikely lovers. But only briefly. In the end, he wanted what he had declared to be his only need all along, the incestuous love of Cersei. The two of them were crushed under the wreckage of the Red Keep as they embraced, leaving the world touching each other, just as they had entered it.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
†Ma. Cherrie Bugarin
Please join us in prayers as we remember
our beloved on her first death anniversary.
Mass of intention is celebrated daily at 6:00am
at Kristo Rai Church beginning May 13 through May 22, 2019.
In addition, Mass offering is scheduled on
Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 6pm at Kristo Rai Church.
With humble and sincere appreciation for your
presence, thoughts and prayers.
Family, Best Friend, and
Legion of Mary Group - Kristo Rai Church, Garapan

Grumpy Cat, who entertained millions online, dies at age 7

MORRISTOWN, Ariz. (AP)—Grumpy Cat, whose sourpuss expression entertained millions on the internet and spawned hundreds of memes, national television commercials and even a movie, died at age 7.

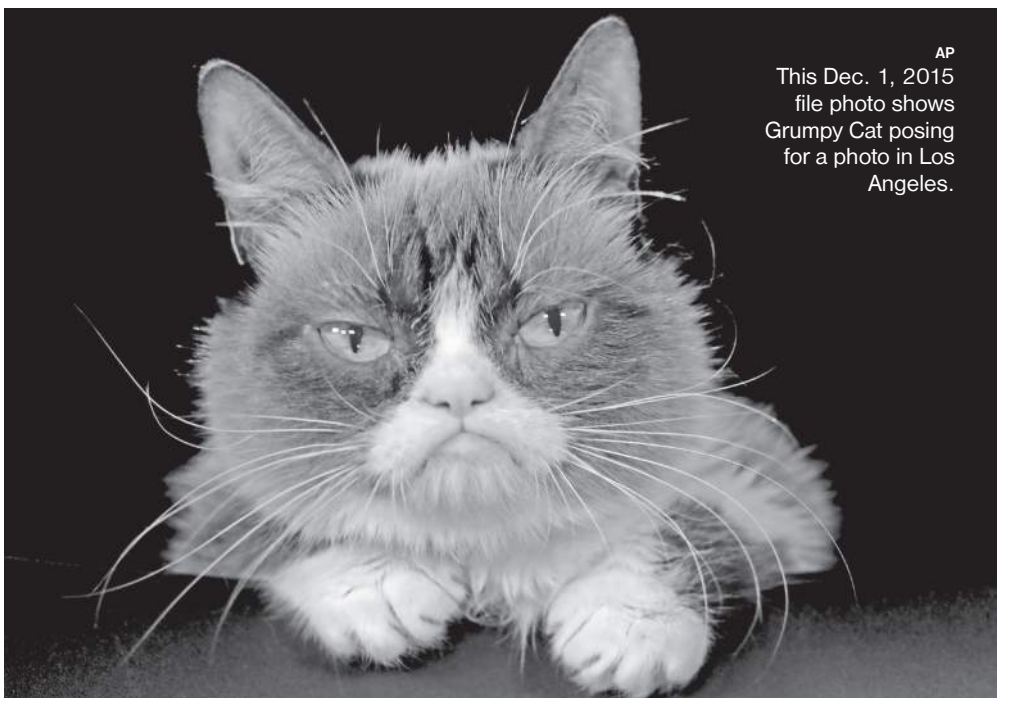
Her owners posted on social media that she experienced complications from a urinary tract infection. "She passed away peacefully on the morning of Tuesday, May 14, at home in the arms of her mommy, Tabatha," they wrote.

"Grumpy Cat has helped millions of people smile all around the world—even when times were tough," her owners said.

The cat's real name was Tardar Sauce and the owners were never sure what her breed was. Her website said her grumpy look was likely because she had a form of feline dwarfism. They said despite her face, she is cuddly and loved to be held and rubbed.

She rose to fame after her photos were posted on Reddit in 2012. Her owners said it was suggested the photo was a fake, so they posted a few videos to prove otherwise.

Since then, Grumpy Cat made appearances on "Good Morning America," ''CBS Evening News," even "American Idol" and "The Bachelorette." She's done television commercials for Honey Nut Cheerios and took photos with hundreds of fans at South by Southwest.



AP
This Dec. 1, 2015 file photo shows Grumpy Cat posing for a photo in Los Angeles.

In 2014, Lifetime produced a movie called "Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever." She was voiced by "Parks and Recreation" star Aubrey Plaza.

Owner Tabatha Bundesen founded Grumpy Cat Ltd. and created a website that included an online shop featuring 884 items, including T-shirts and mugs with the cat's picture.

The feline's net worth was never disclosed but in 2013, her owners say it was six figures. Last year, online speculation estimated her to be worth in the millions.

Grumpy Cat had more than 8 million followers on Facebook, 2.5 million on Instagram and more than 1.5 million on Twitter.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Kim Kardashian West reveals Psalm as new baby's name

NEW YORK (AP)—To messages of support and puzzlement, Kim Kardashian West has, seemingly, revealed her newborn's name: Psalm West. The beauty mogul, reality star, law student and wife of Kanye West took to her social streams to share the first look at their fourth child, born May 9. A photo of the boy nestled in a crib came in the form of a text message screen grab with her husband that called it a "Beautiful Mother's Day" and said the couple are "blessed beyond measure." The baby is their second boy and the second to be born via surrogate because of a potentially life-threatening medical condition that complicated Kardashian West's two pregnancies. The baby joins 5-year-old sister North, 3-year-old brother Saint and 15-month-old sister Chicago.

Matthew McConaughey receives original high school diploma

LONGVIEW, Texas (AP)—Actor Matthew McConaughey has finally received his high school diploma, more than 30 years after graduating. McConaughey was given his original diploma Friday night when he returned to his Texas alma mater to address the class of 2019. A Longview High School spokeswoman told the Longview News-Journal that graduates normally receive diploma holders during commencement ceremonies and that the actual diplomas must be picked up later. She said McConaughey never got his. The 49-year-old graduated from Longview in 1988. He responded to receiving his diploma with one word: "proof." McConaughey lives in Austin. He won an Oscar for his performance in "Dallas Buyers Club." He told the new graduates that he'd succeeded because he followed his heart, and that they should guard and follow theirs.

Queen Elizabeth II attends yet another wedding at Windsor

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II and other royal family members have gathered at St George's chapel in Windsor for the wedding of the daughter of the monarch's first cousin. Lady Gabriella Windsor's marriage to Thomas Kingston Saturday marked the third royal wedding at the 15th-century venue in less than a year after the nuptials of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex last May and Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank in October. Prince Harry left Meghan at home with newborn son Archie and arrived with his uncle and aunt, Prince Edward and Princess Anne. The bride's gown was designed by Luisa Beccaria, while the monarch wore a pink A-line coat, and a lilac and pink silk dress by Stewart Parvin. The bride is the daughter of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent.

'Jersey Shore' star's ex-girlfriend accused of battering him

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A lawyer says "Jersey Shore" star Ronnie Ortiz-Magro's on-again-off-again girlfriend will fight a misdemeanor domestic battery charge alleging she attacked Ortiz-Magro at a Las Vegas club on New Year's Eve. Jennifer Annette Harley's attorney, Michael Cristalli, said Friday he was surprised his 32-year-old client was arrested Thursday on a warrant issued April 17, more than four months after the incident at Hustler Night Club. Harley is free from jail and due in court on Wednesday. Cristalli denies Harley committed any crime and notes she and Ortiz-Magro have a young daughter together. Police say Harley was arrested after officers responding to her report of a man in a van with a gun learned she was sought on the warrant. Records show misdemeanor domestic battery charges against Harley in 2016 and 2018 were dismissed.

Business manager sentenced for defrauding Ne-Yo, McKnight

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey man who served as business manager for Ne-Yo has been sentenced in Ohio to more than seven years in prison for defrauding the R&B singer in a sports beverage scheme. Kevin Foster was convicted last year on 16 counts including wire fraud, money laundering and tax charges. Prosecutors say the Montclair, New Jersey, resident convinced Ne-Yo, whose real name is Shaffer Smith, to invest $2 million in a company called OXYWater, and then invested an additional $1.5 million of Smith's money without his consent. He also defrauded singer Brian McKnight by withdrawing money from his account without authorization. Prosecutors contend Foster spent the money on a personal driver, expensive suits and jewelry, season tickets to the New York Giants and New York Knicks, and Super Bowl tickets.

Richard Madden shrugs off Bond rumors at Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—Richard Madden donned a James Bond-esque white tuxedo at the Cannes Film Festival, but the actor shrugged off any 007 rumors. Some British bookies have recently had Madden as the favorite to succeed Daniel Craig, who's currently shooting what he's said will be his last movie in the role. Asked about those odds Friday in Cannes, Madden said it was "very flattering to be involved in that conversation." But the Scottish actor said "it's all just talk," and added that "I'm sure it will be someone different next week." The 32-year-old "Bodyguard" star is in Cannes with the Elton John biopic musical "Rocketman," in which he plays John manager John Reid. On Friday, his "Rocketman" co-star Taron Egerton followed up Madden's remarks by humming the Bond theme song.

Old friend declines to attend wedding she can't endorse

DEAR ABBY: My dear friend of many years is marrying for the fourth time. Her fiance is verbally abusive and a heavy drinker. After a particularly bad period she went through with him, I told her that if she went ahead and married him, she should just let me know when it was over because I had no desire to witness this union.

Well, she called me a few days ago with the date, assuming I was going to go. When I reminded her of what I had said, she said she hadn't believed me. She wasn't happy about my refusal to go, but seems to have accepted it. My question is, do I need to acknowledge this wedding (only six people are attending) with a card or just let the day pass?

NOT A FAN OF THE MAN

DEAR NOT A FAN: Be prepared for the fact that your decision not to attend her wedding may result in distancing you from your friend. Send a sweet card with your good wishes. Then cross your fingers and pray for her well-being.

DEAR ABBY: I am a disabled vet, long divorced. My significant other is a widow eight years older than I am, who suffers from advanced arthritis. I love her with all my heart, but I have become a full-time caregiver when I pretty much need someone to take care of me. I find myself almost wishing she would pass, so I could lay down and die myself. Any thoughts?

WORN OUT IN THE CAROLINAS

DEAR WORN OUT: Yes, but before I share them I want to thank you for your service to our country.

As much as you love your lady friend, your own health must come first. For both your sakes, you must NOT allow taking care of her to make you sick.

Does she have family who could help out? If not, perhaps social services can guide you in finding someone to assist her with the duties you have taken on. However, before doing that, please talk with your doctor and tell him or her what you have written to me because the feelings you describe may be symptoms not only of exhaustion but also depression, which is treatable.

DEAR ABBY: My family and I are set to take a weeklong vacation with another family this summer. We will be renting a house. What is the appropriate split for the rental fee? My wife and I have four children; the other couple has two. All of the children are under the age of 8.

I think my wife and I should pay more because our family is larger. My wife agrees, but isn't sure what the split should be. The other couple wants to pay 50/50, saying the children are so little they shouldn't be considered in the cost of the trip. I think an appropriate compromise would be for each family to pay half the rental, but my wife and I pay for all of the food. What do you think?

HAPPY PROBLEM

DEAR HAPPY PROBLEM: I think it would be appropriate to offer a split of 60/40. That way you would be paying a little bit extra. However, if they still prefer splitting it in half, you should agree rather than argue.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

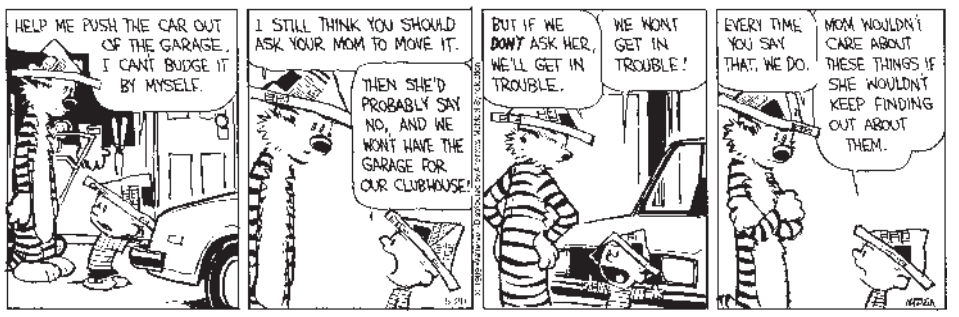
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

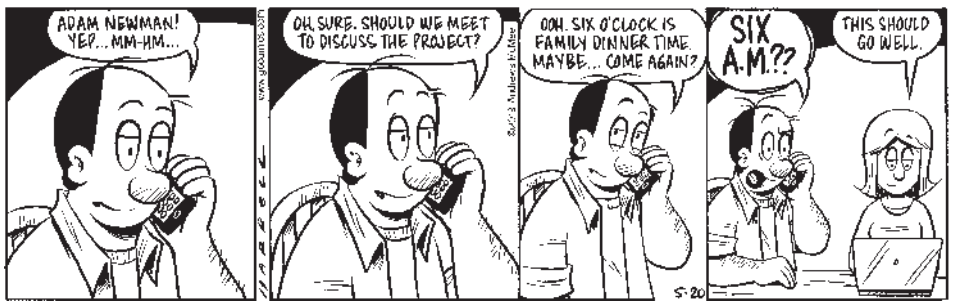

HELP ME PUSH THE CAR OUT OF THE GARAGE. I CAN'T BUDGE IT BY MYSELF.
I STILL THINK YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR MOM TO MOVE IT.
THEN SHE'D PROBABLY SAY NO, AND WE WON'T HAVE THE GARAGE FOR OUR CLUBHOUSE!
BUT IF WE DON'T ASK HER, WE'LL GET IN TROUBLE.
WE WON'T GET IN TROUBLE!
EVERY TIME YOU SAY THAT, WE DO.
MOM WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT THESE THINGS IF SHE WOULDN'T KEEP FINDING OUT ABOUT THEM.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

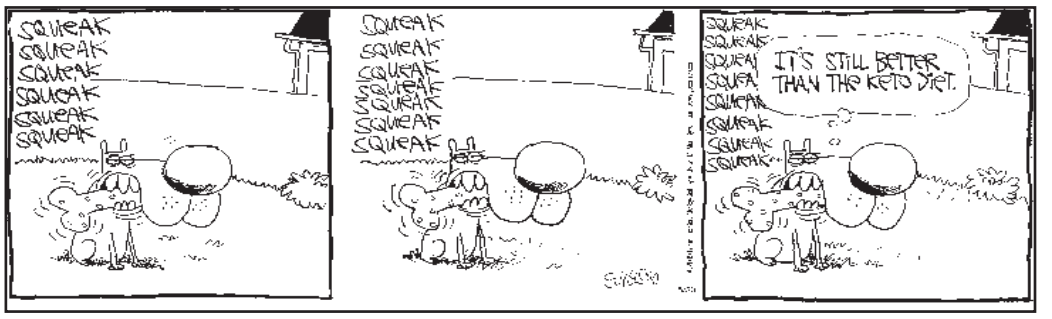
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM NEWMAN! YEP... MM-HM...
OH, SURE. SHOULD WE MEET TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT?
OOH. SIX O'CLOCK IS FAMILY DINNER TIME. MAYBE... COME AGAIN?
SIX A.M.??
THIS SHOULD GO WELL.
5-20

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Faux pas
5 Spider's creation
8 Smith of Fox News
12 Wood strip
13 Hollywood's Gardner
14 Model Banks
15 Twistable cookie
16 "Wonder Woman" star
18 Reproductive cell
20 Old Geo models
21 Conceal, in a way
23 Zodiac cat
24 When a sporting event starts
28 Pvt.'s superiors
31 Historic period
32 Open a toothpaste tube
34 Consume
35 Beige
37 Floral wreaths
39 Mao — -tung
41 Coaster
42 Three-note chords
45 Doo-hickey
49 Hood
51 Roof overhang
52 "Got it"
53 French article
54 Pitcher Nolan
55 Waller or Domino
56 Inlet
57 Transmit

DOWN
1 Trudge
2 News reporter Logan
3 Detail
4 "Friends" role
5 Betting parlor activity
6 Ms. Longoria
7 Lip soother
8 Iowa and Maine, e.g.
9 Lightest element
10 Slangy suffix
11 Bits of butter
17 Solidify
19 Ballet wear
22 Community gym sites
24 "Gosh!"
25 Lob's path
26 Strict taskmaster
27 Tea choice
29 Wee bit
30 Map lines (Abbr.)
33 Entreaty
36 Applications
38 Venomous snakes
40 Mag. staff
42 End-of-wk. cry
43 Tabula —
44 Ticket half
46 "Mercy Mercy Me" singer Marvin
47 Novelist Hunter
48 Look after
50 Disney deer

Solution time: 26 mins.

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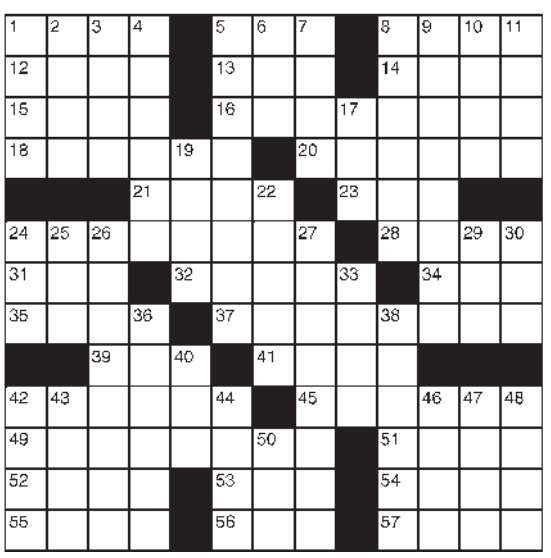
S		G	N		R	E	S	T		N	E	T

Last Friday's Answer 05-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matt Czuchry, 42; Tony Stewart, 48; Tony Goldwyn, 59; Cher, 73.

Happy Birthday: Stay focused. Learn, research and discover what you need to reach your goals. Go directly to the source, and leave no room for error. Don't trust people who are persuasive or those who exaggerate. Pour your energy into positive personal changes that will make you feel good. This year is about using discipline to excel. Your numbers are 4, 11, 18, 22, 29, 36, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Listen and learn. Surround yourself with innovative people, but don't lose sight of what's doable. Your strength will come from using what you know will be beneficial and discarding what is not feasible. Personal gains look promising. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Proceed quietly. Don't reveal your plans until you feel you have taken care of every detail sufficiently. How well you do will depend on the amount of energy you are willing to put into achieving your goal or reaching your destination. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Be open to suggestions, but don't follow someone who has failed to present enough evidence to prove future success. Use ideas you gather to further your agenda, not help someone else get ahead. A joint venture isn't in your best interest. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Refuse to let anyone meddle in your affairs. Concentrate on making a positive change that will give you the boost you need as well as add to your popularity. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Use your intellect and connections to create opportunities. You may feel tempted to make a move, physical change or snap decision, but think twice before jumping into something without doing the necessary research. Avoid a risky venture. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Emotional situations should be addressed quickly so you can move on to undertakings that encourage greater productivity. Personal growth and physical improvements will bring high returns. Choose peace and love over discord. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll face opposition if you are too open regarding your plans. Take care of details, and iron out any problems that have the potential to ruin your plans before you decide to present what you want to pursue. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Consider the changes you would like to make and the cost involved. If you do some of the work yourself, you will be able to stick to an affordable budget. A call for help will give you more leeway. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Refuse to let anyone talk you into something that could hurt your reputation or upset the people who love you the most. Say no to anyone using emotional tactics or persuasion to entice you into something you shouldn't do. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put your plan in place, and make positive changes at home as well as to important relationships. Personal improvements you make will be well-received and add to your popularity. Changes to your eating habits and fitness routines will pay off. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Do what you can to help others, but not at the expense of your health, personal relationships or integrity. If someone is asking for too much, offer suggestions. Focus on what's important to you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Too much of anything will lead to problems. Help others, but make sure you stick to your beliefs. Don't appease someone who is trying to take advantage of you. Speak up if you don't like what you hear or see. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are relentless, energetic and industrious. You are disciplined and organized.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9					4		
6	2		9		1		8	3
			3		6			
	8	4		1		9	3	
			7		4			
	1	2		6		5	7	
			1		2			
3	4		6		7		9	5
	6						1	

Difficulty Level ★ 5/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	7	9	2	4	3	1	8	6
4	3	1	8	7	6	5	2	9
6	8	2	9	5	1	7	4	3
7	4	5	6	3	2	9	1	8
8	9	3	4	1	7	2	6	5
1	2	6	5	8	9	4	3	7
2	6	8	7	9	4	3	5	1
9	1	4	3	6	5	8	7	2
3	5	7	1	2	8	6	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CROSSING THE LINE Solution: 7 letters

B	R	T	E	D	A	V	N	I	R	T	P	O	T	S
A	O	N	N	N	I	D	L	O	H	S	E	R	H	T
R	I	U	S	O	I	S	H	O	C	K	T	S	U	E
R	V	L	N	S	R	F	C	N	R	Ⓛ	S	O	P	S
I	A	B	O	D	E	F	N	O	A	Ⓘ	R	C	A	U
E	H	B	E	P	A	R	N	O	M	Ⓐ	E	I	B	C
R	E	U	E	Y	P	R	G	O	C	Ⓕ	V	A	R	C
Y	B	D	R	G	O	O	Y	S	C	H	O	L	U	A
R	U	L	N	T	W	N	S	T	N	A	T	R	P	T
R	E	O	A	K	C	A	D	I	L	A	N	U	T	T
O	R	L	A	M	F	A	L	E	T	I	R	E	R	I
W	O	E	T	E	E	I	E	K	F	E	U	T	U	T
N	N	I	T	I	M	I	L	R	E	E	N	G	L	U
S	G	Y	G	P	T	N	A	V	A	R	A	C	E	D
P	I	H	S	N	O	I	T	A	L	E	R	T	S	E

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Abrupt, Accuse, Attitude, Barrier, Behavior, Beyond, Blame, Blunt, Boundary, Cane, Caravan, Confine, Confront, Defeat, Discomfort, Disobey, Fail, Guilty, Hurt, Ignore, Invade, Limit, Limp, March, Opposite, Overstep, React, Relationship, Rude, Rules, Safety, Shock, Sneak, Social, Stop, Threshold, Title, Transgress, Truth, Upset, Walker, Worry, Wrong

Last Friday's Answer: New Orleans

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF THE NEW STONEAGE CORPORATION.

Notice is hereby given that THE STONEAGE CORPORATION is dissolving the corporation effective May 20, 2019.

All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to present them in writing and mail to:
THE STONEAGE CORPORATION
PMB 429 BOX 10000 SAIPAN
MP 96950

This will serve as notice to all parties concerned of the legal dissolution of the said corporation.

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ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 503758 CK Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859 | Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0252
ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS,	NOTICE OF HEARING
Deceased.	Date: July 18, 2019 Time: 9:00 am Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

TO ANNIE R. TOKYO AND MELINDA T. HOSSAIN, ALL HEIRS, AND INTERESTED PARTIES: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Hilda V. Rios has filed a Response to in the above-titled matter. The hearing on the Evidentiary Hearing is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this day 13th of May , 2019.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Sabrina Fran D. Calvo Petitioner, vs. Billy Ralph Greathouse Jr. Respondent,	FCD PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0143(R) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 591, Rota MP, 96951 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk to Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.
Dated this 18th day of March, 2019.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Felicidad Dela Cruz Lifoifoi
P.O. Box 7148 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-1611

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Guillermo R. Lifoifoi An Incompetent by Felicidad Dela Cruz Lifoifoi Petitioner	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0218 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Felicidad Dela Cruz Lifoifoi, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the Office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at the Marianas Business Plaza Suite 212, Susupe, Saipan, before Honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 22nd day of May, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Dated this 17th day of May, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: /s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

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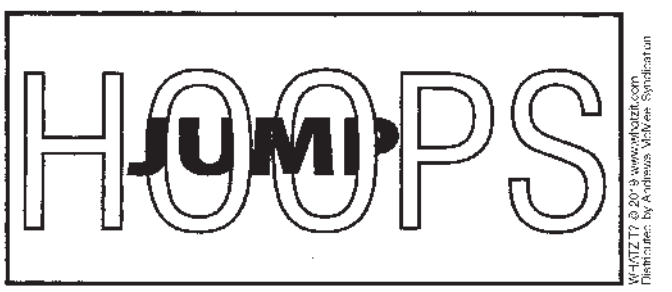

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Find today's solution in classified section

Warriors beat Blazers for 3-0 lead in West finals

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Draymond Green had 20 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Portland Trail Blazers 110-99 on Saturday night for a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Green had his seventh career postseason triple-double and Stephen Curry scored 36 points for Golden State, which moved a win away from a fifth straight trip to the NBA finals with Game 4 set for Monday.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr said it was one of the best games he's seen Green play.

"I don't even know what to say about Draymond," Kerr said. "He was a wrecking ball, destroying everything in his path."

CJ McCollum had 23 points for the Trail Blazers, who led by 18 points in the second quarter. Damian Lillard added 19 points, but Portland was hurt at the line, making just 20 of 33 attempts.

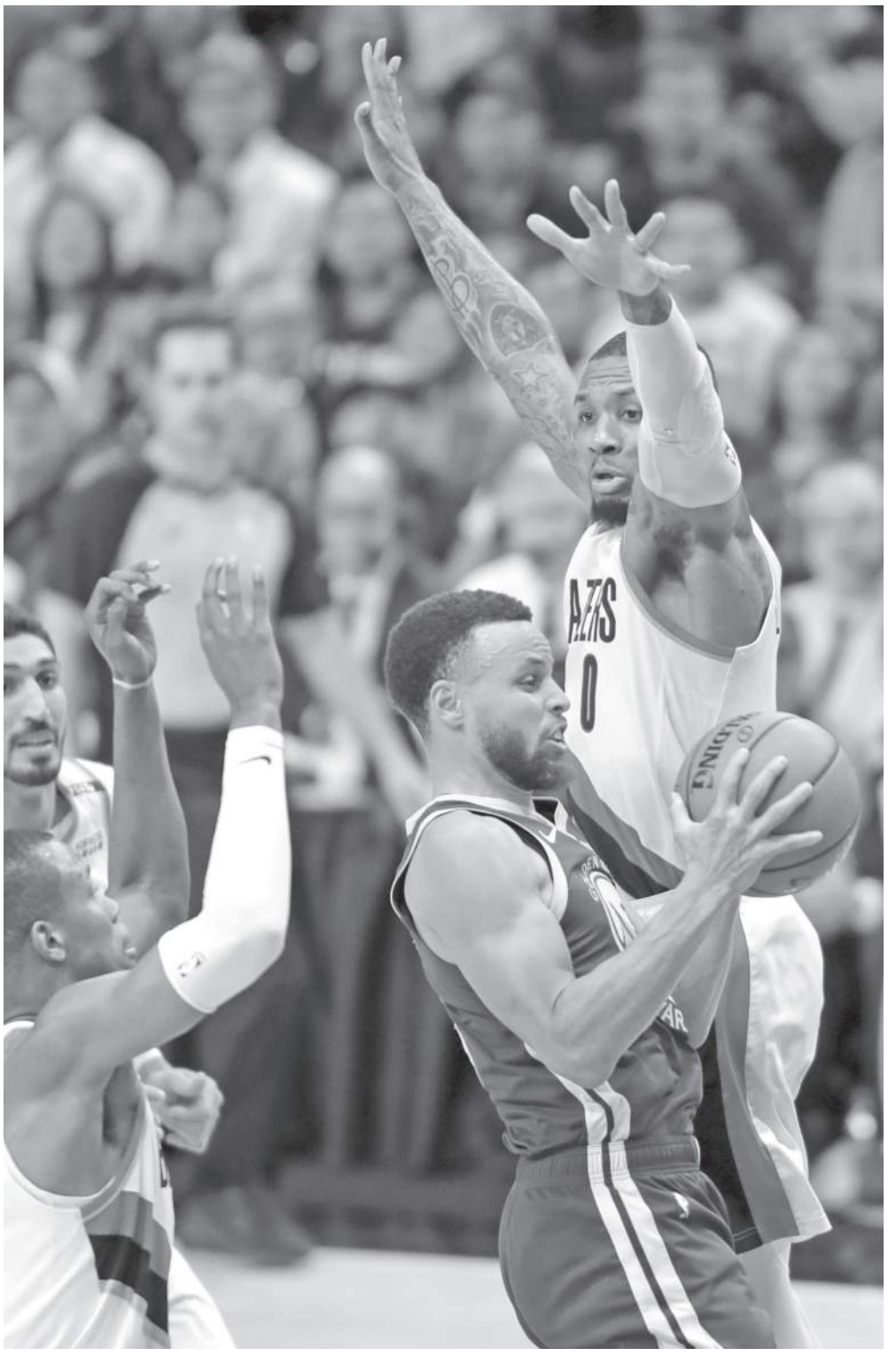
Golden State's Andre Iguodala left in the third quarter with a sore lower leg. Kerr said he will have an MRI on Sunday. Iguodala played 17 minutes and had nine points.

After trailing 66-53 at the half, the Warriors mounted a third-quarter comeback to lead 82-79 going into the fourth. Jonas Jerebko's jumper pushed the lead to 90-82 with 7:26 left.

Curry's 3-pointer made it 98-87 with just under five minutes to go, and Portland struggled to catch up—similar to their fourth-quarter fade in Game 2.

Game 3 was the first conference finals game in Portland since 2000. The Blazers lost that series to the eventual champion Los Angeles Lakers in seven games.

No team has ever come back from an 0-3 deficit to win in the playoffs. Only three series have gone to a seventh game after one team opened with a 3-0 lead.



AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, center, is defended by Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference finals, Saturday, May 18, 2019, in Portland, Ore. The Warriors won, 110-99.

"We're going to give it our best effort on Monday. That's all that matters," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "We're going to give it our best effort and whatever happen, happens."

On Thursday, the Blazers were up 15 at halftime and led by eight with 4½ minutes left before the Warriors rallied—boosted by Kevon Looney's dunk with less than a minute left, and a game-sealing steal from Iguodala—for a 114-111 Game 2 victory.

Both teams switched up their lineups for Game 3, with Portland's Meyers Leonard making his first start of the playoffs at center. Enes Kanter, despite sustaining a separated shoulder in the first-round series against the Oklahoma City Thunder, started in all the previous games. Leonard provided a spark and finished with a career playoff-high 16 points.

Kerr started Damian Jones, who hadn't started since December and had made just two previous appearances in the playoffs. Jones, who played in just 24 games in the regular season because of a torn pectoral muscle, collected three fouls in the game's opening three minutes and headed to the bench.

The Warriors remained without Kevin Durant, and it's unlikely he'll return during the conference finals. The two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP is still out with a right calf injury and isn't set to be re-examined until next week.

Durant, who didn't travel with the team to Portland, averaged 34.2 points in the playoffs before he was injured in the third quarter of Golden State's Game 5 victory over Houston.

Portland was boosted by the home crowd at the start, going up by 10 points in the first quarter. Seth Curry's jumper made it 60-42 with 2:28 left until halftime.

The Warriors roared back, closing within 76-75 on Alfonzo McKinnie's basket and pulling ahead on Looney's layup to cap a 10-0 run.

George, Harden, and Giannis named MVP award finalists

Oklahoma City Thunder's Paul George, Houston Rockets star James Harden and Milwaukee Bucks sensation Giannis Antetokounmpo are the finalists for the NBA's MVP award.

The league announced the trio of finalists on Friday, with the winner to be announced at the NBA Awards on June 24.

George averaged 28 points, 8.2 rebounds and 4.1 assists per game for the Thunder. He also led the league in steals (2.21) and is a top contender for Defensive Player of the Year.

Oklahoma City lost 4-1 to the Portland Trail Blazers in the Western Conference first round.

Reigning MVP Harden led the NBA in scoring, averaging 36.1 points per game, which was the highest mark since Michael Jordan averaged 37.1 points in the 1986-87 season.

Harden also trailed George in steals, finishing with a second-best mark of 2.03, as the Rockets advanced to the Conference semifinals before going down to the Golden State Warriors in six games.

Antetokounmpo helped the Bucks to the best record in the NBA in 2018-19. Milwaukee finished the season at 60-22 and their Greek superstar averaged 27.7 points and 12.5 rebounds on a staggering career-high 57.8 per cent shooting.

He led the Bucks in every major statistical category but blocks and is also a top pick for Defensive Player of the Year. He was one of the most physically imposing players the league has ever seen this season.

Koepka keeps 7-shot lead at PGA Championship

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)—Brooks Koepka is on the cusp of some elite company at the PGA Championship—in the record book, not on the leaderboard.

He is all alone on Bethpage Black, the public course he has turned into his private playground.

Koepka wasn't at his best, particularly with his putter on the toughest scoring day of the championship, and he still kept everyone far enough behind to make the final round feel more like a victory lap.

With an even-par 70 that featured a pair of three-putt bogeys, he kept a seven-shot lead and earned another entry in the record book with the largest lead since the PGA Championship switched to stroke play in 1958.

No one has ever lost a seven-shot lead in the final round at any major, or even a PGA Tour event.

That leaves Koepka 18 holes away from joining Tiger Woods as the only back-to-back winners of the PGA in stroke play. He is one round away from becoming the first player to hold back-to-back major title at the same time. Not since Hal Sutton in 1983 has anyone led from start to finish in the PGA Championship.

And a third straight year winning a major? Woods and Phil Mickelson are the only players to have done that over the last 30 years. Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer are the only others to win majors in three straight years dating to 1960.

Asked if there was any doubt he would win, Koepka said flatly, "No."

He is unflappable in speech and on the golf course. Koepka has never bothered to check his heart rate at rest, but he figures it wouldn't be much different from standing on the first tee of a major championship with a big lead and thousands of rowdy New York fans witnessing a master performance.

"Every time I set up to a golf shot, I feel like I know what the ball is going to do," Koepka said. "And if I don't, then I guess I'd be nervous. ... I'm trying my butt off, and from there, sometimes you need a little bit of luck. But I'd say I'm pretty flat-lined most of the time, as you can tell."

He has all but flattened the strongest field in golf.

Koepka was at 12-under 198, the first time this week he did not set or tie a scoring record.

"I think we're all playing for second," said Luke List, one of four players tied for second.

Dustin Johnson tried to make a run with six birdies, only to stall with five bogeys in his round of 69. No bogey was more damaging than the 18th. A drive into the fairway would have given the world's No. 1 player a reasonable shot at birdie. Instead, he sent it right into bunker, came up well short into the native grass, left the next one in the bunker and had to scramble to limit the damage.

That kept Johnson from joining his close friend in the final group.

Koepka will play the final round with Harold Varner III, whose week began with plans to play a practice round with Woods on the eve of the PGA Championship until Woods called in sick. Varner birdied the 18th to cap off a bogey-free 67 and lead the group at 5-under 205 that includes Jazz Janewattananond (67) and List, who holed two shots from off the green for a 69.

Jordan Spieth did not put any pressure on Koepka at all. Playing in the final group on the weekend for the first time since the British Open last summer, Spieth didn't have a realistic birdie chance until the sixth hole, and he missed that one from 8 feet. He shot 72 and was nine shots behind.

Spieth would not speak to a reporter after the round.

There was simply no stopping Koepka, who is one round away from a fourth major in his last eight tries and a return to No. 1 in the world.

The plan for Sunday was no different from the previous three rounds.

"It doesn't really matter. I'm just trying to play good golf," Koepka said. "If I can get off to a good start tomorrow, these first six holes are very scorable. I feel like if you can get 1 or 2 under after six, you're in a good spot."

That's what worked on Saturday.

Trout hits milestone HR to lead Angels over Royals

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Mike Trout drove a long homer for the 250th of his career, Shohei Ohtani also went deep and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Kansas City Royals 6-3 on Saturday night.

Trout's solo shot to left-center off starter Jakob Junis (3-5) made him the sixth AL player to reach 250 homers before his 28th birthday. The 473-footer was also his second longest since Statcast began measuring them in 2015 and the third longest in the majors this season.

Griffin Canning (2-1) pitched seven shutout innings, becoming the second Angels' starter to go at least seven, which is worst in the majors. The rookie right-hander retired the first 12 Royals he faced and allowed three hits with five strikeouts. Ty Buttrey worked the final 1 2/3 innings for his second save.

Ohtani's two-run homer to right in the sixth was his second of the season. Last season's AL Rookie of the Year missed the first 34 games following Tommy John surgery.

After Trout's homer, the Angels added another run in the second when Kole Calhoun led off with a double and scored on Jonathan Lucroy's single.

Los Angeles added three in the sixth. Trout walked with one out before Ohtani clubbed a two-run shot over the right field wall for his first home run at Angels Stadium this season. Andrelton Simmons followed with a double to left and advanced to third on a throwing error. He scored on Calhoun's sacrifice fly to center to make it 5-0.

AP

Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout, right, scores on a single by Albert Pujols as Kansas City Royals catcher Martin Maldonado waits for the ball during the seventh inning of a baseball game Saturday, May 18, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif.

Rays 2, Yankees 1, 11 innings

In New York, Austin Meadows homered off Luis Cessa in the 11th inning, and the Tampa Bay Rays rallied to beat the Yankees and regain the AL East lead.

New York's bullpen retired 13 in a row before Meadows lined a slider from Cessa (0-1) into the right-field seats for his ninth homer.

Meadows saved a run in the sixth when he charged Gleyber Torres' two-out single to left and made a one-hop throw to the plate. Catcher Erik Kratz tagged Aaron Hicks, who tried to score from second and ran past third base coach Phil Nevin's stop sign.

Masahiro Tanaka outpitched AL Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell for the second time in less than a week and was provided a lead when Snell threw a run-scoring wild pitch in the third.

White Sox 4, Blue Jays 1, 4 1/2 innings

In Chicago, Lucas Giolito threw five solid innings, Leury Garcia homered and the White Sox beat the Toronto Blue Jays in a game stopped after 4 1/2 innings because of rain.

Giolito (5-1) struck out the side in the top of the fifth before play was halted. The game was called after a wait of three hours.

Yonder Alonso had two singles and two RBIs for the White Sox, who have won five of seven.

Ryan Feierabend (0-1) allowed four runs and seven hits in four innings for Toronto in his first start in the majors since 2008. He struck out two and walked one.

Reds 4, Dodgers 0

In Cincinnati, Jesse Winker's homer ended LA's stretch of scoreless pitching, and Yasiel Puig singled home a pair of runs, leading the Reds to a victory that snapped the Dodgers' four-game winning streak.

The Reds beat the Dodgers for the first time in five games this season, including LA's three-game sweep in April. The Dodgers are 34-23 at Great American Ball Park, the second-best mark by an NL team behind the Mets.

Tyler Mahle (1-5) got his first win in his ninth start, allowing four singles and a pair of walks in five innings.

Indians 4, Orioles 1

In Cleveland, Adam Plutko, making his first appearance of the season, allowed one run in six innings—a solo homer by Trey Mancini for Baltimore's only hit— and the Indians defeated the Orioles.

Plutko, called up from Triple-A Columbus before the game, gave up the home run to Mancini with two outs in the fourth. The right-hander struck out four, walked two and was pulled after throwing 83 pitches.

Cleveland used three relievers to finish it. Oliver Perez struck out three of the four hitters he faced. Adam Cimber retired a batter in the eighth, but a fielding error by third baseman Jose Ramirez and a walk put two runners on.

Athletics 4, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Daniel Mengden pitched seven impressive innings and Nick Hundley and Chad Pinder homered to lift the Oakland Athletics to their 15th straight win over Detroit.

If the A's beat the Tigers today, they would tie a franchise record for their longest winning streak against one team. Oakland won 16 in a row over the New York Yankees from 1989-91.

Mengden (1-1) allowed a run and three hits. Lou Trivino worked the eighth inning, and Blake Treinen pitched the ninth for his seventh save in nine chances.

Marlins 2, Mets 0

In Miami, starter Pablo Lopez gave up a double on his first pitch, then combined with the Marlins' bullpen to hold the Mets hitless the rest of the way in the win.

The Marlins, with the worst record in the majors, beat the Mets for the second straight day after entering the series with a seven-game losing streak.

The Mets lost their fourth in a row and fell a season-worst four games under .500. After getting held to one hit, the loss is certain to ramp up speculation that manager Mickey Callaway's job is in jeopardy.

Astros 7, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Tyler White's two-run double capped a five-run first inning, Josh Reddick hit a solo homer and the Houston Astros kept rolling, beating the Red Sox for their 10th straight victory.

Michael Brantley had three hits and an RBI for Houston (31-15), which matched the best start in franchise history after 46 games.

Christian Vázquez hit a solo homer for the Red Sox, who had won six of eight.

Josh James (1-0) got the victory with three innings of hitless relief after starter Corbin Martin went four, giving up three runs, two earned, in his second major league start.

Boston spot starter Hector Velázquez (1-3) retired just one batter, giving up five runs, three hits with two walks and had a spattering of boos cascading down as he walked off.

Wondolowski breaks Landon Donovan's MLS record

SAN JOSE, Calif. —Chris Wondolowski scored four times to pass Landon Donovan for most career MLS goals, and the San Jose Earthquakes beat the Chicago Fire 4-1 on Saturday.

Wondolowski tied Donovan's record at 145 with his first goal in the 21st minute. Shea Salinas sent in a curling pass that Wondolowski punched home from just inside the 6-yard box.

He has shined with little fanfare — just the way "Wondo" prefers it as he focuses on the preparation he still so enjoys and being an example for young teammates — playing at home in the Bay Area, having grown up in the East Bay suburb of Danville. He went to college at tiny Division II Chico State, not part of an elite youth national team program. He didn't even make his debut with the U.S. national team until six days before his 28th birthday in January 2011.

The 36-year-old two-time Golden Boot winner (2010, 2012) broke the record in the 48th minute with a left-footed punch from close range to the upper corner after poaching a loose ball from goalkeeper David Ousted as he tried to control a shot by knocking it down.

"I love visualization, I love going through different things. I always pictured hitting a 30-yard blast going upper 90, didn't really picture the goalkeeper dropping it and tapping it in, but I'll take it," Wondolowski said. "Honestly, I'm just having fun right now. It's kind of rejuvenated, reignited this passion and I'm really having fun right now."

"It was an honor to play with and against you @ChrisWondo Congrats on an incredibly well deserved achievement," Donovan posted on Twitter.

Wondolowski added goals in the 74th and 76th minutes, finishing assists from Cristian Espinoza and Jackson Yueill to make it 4-0 for the Quakes (4-6-2). Wondolowski hadn't scored a goal so far this season coming into the match but ended the day with 148 career goals.

Wondolowski's teammates tossed him in the air. He high-fived fans on a rainy Bay Area day as soaked supporters chanted "Won-do! Won-do!"

Passing someone like Donovan, widely considered the best player in MLS history, means so much . Dating to last season, the Quakes tracked each Wondolowski goal in the lead-up to the record-breaker on social media with "Wondo Watch."

He had to wait until this season, perhaps a good thing after a lost year in 2018 for San Jose. Former Argentina midfielder and Guadalajara Chivas coach Matias Almeyda is now in charge.

"It's looming just 'cause it's there, but to be honest this year has been so much fun," Wondolowski said. "I think that this coaching staff and this locker room have reignited that passion and a love for the game and I'm just enjoying it out there. I'm going out there not to score goals, I'm going out there because it's fun."

Nadal gets revenge over Tsitsipas; Djokovic up next

ROME (AP)—After losing in the semifinals of three straight clay-court tournaments, Rafael Nadal looked more like his old, dominant self when he beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-4 to reach the Italian Open final on Saturday.

It was a measure of revenge for Nadal after losing to Tsitsipas in three sets at this stage in Madrid last week. This victory should also restore Nadal's confidence as he seeks a record-extending 12th title at the French Open starting next weekend.

"The main thing is I am playing better. If I play better, I know I'm going to have chances to be in finals and to win semifinal matches," Nadal said. "If you are not playing well, (beating) the best players of the world is much more difficult. ... I have margin to keep improving. But I am doing the right steps to be there."

In Sunday's final, Nadal will resume his rivalry with top-ranked Novak Djokovic, who faced an unusually high number of drop shots from Diego Schwartzman before winning, 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-3.

Djokovic also required three sets to eliminate Juan Martin del Potro in the quarterfinals, meaning he has been on court for more than 5 ½ hours over the last two days.

It will be the 54th career meeting between Djokovic and Nadal, with Djokovic leading the series 28-25. The pair has split the four Italian Open finals they've played. They last met in the Australian Open final won by Djokovic in straight sets.

"He's my greatest rival of all time," Djokovic said. "Every time we get to play each other it's a thrill. It's the ultimate challenge."

Nadal is aiming for a record-extending ninth trophy in Rome while Djokovic is seeking his fifth title at the Foro Italico.

Nadal is in the middle of his longest title drought to begin a season since he came onto the scene in 2004. His last trophy came last August in Toronto.

The crowd attempted to encourage Tsitsipas with chants of "Tsi-Tsi-Tsi, Pas-Pas-Pas" but the 20-year-old Greek player couldn't keep up with Nadal on the long rallies—even though he didn't play a day earlier after Roger Federer withdrew injured from their quarterfinal.

Conditions were much slower than on the high-altitude court in Madrid, which favored Nadal and made it tougher for Tsitsipas to execute his attacking game.

"The shots that I played today, I played similar shots last week," Tsitsipas said. "Today those shots felt really slow and he had plenty of time to pass me when I was approaching to the net. .. The court speed was the difference."

Midway through the first set, Nadal produced a blistering forehand winner up the line on the run, drawing a loud roar from the packed Campo Centrale crowd.

Nadal broke Tsitsipas' serve early in both sets.

In the women's tournament, Johanna Konta rallied past sixth-seeded Kiki Bertens 5-7, 7-5, 6-2 in nearly three hours to reach the biggest clay-court final of her career.

Karolina Pliskova beat Greek qualifier Maria Sakkari in the other semifinal, 6-4, 6-4.

Pliskova didn't immediately realize she won because she lost track of the score.

"I thought it was 4-3," she said. "I felt bad about it."

Pliskova is having a solid year, having reached the Australian Open semifinals and the Miami Open final after opening the season with a title in Brisbane, Australia. The Czech player recently announced she promoted four-time Italian Open champion Conchita Martinez as her head coach.

Konta's only previous final on clay came recently in Rabat, Morocco, where she lost to Sakkari.

"I've never really doubted my ability on the surface," Konta said. "I won a lot of my first junior titles, first professional titles on clay. I've always felt that I have a game that has the ability to do well on this surface."

ITF

From Page 28

Numano in the afternoon tiff at Court 1, while Maria Gregoire is paired against China's Haoyan Wu. Tania Tan and Hyejin Elliot are the other Commonwealth players competing in the girls division with the former to have her first match againt Japan's Hiromi Sekiguchi at Court 2. Over at Court 4, Elliott will be taking on South Korea's Seoyoung Kim.

In the boys singles, the CNMI's Sam Ryu will challenge Japan's Yusen Sato at Court 2, while Seung Hyun Kim will also have a Japanese foe in Hayato Kurihara. Two more Commonwealth players will have their opening round games today with Jun Wang battling South Korea's Sungik Park and Seonggeon squaring off against Hong Kong's Wang Kwok.

The CNMI has four more entries in the boys singles event which has a 64-player draw. Sean Lee and Robbie Schorr are seeded No. 13 and 7, respectively, and got a bye in the first round along with Ken Song and Jimin Woo.

Other seeded players in the boys singles are No. 1 Yunseok Jang, No. 4 Junhyun Lee, No. 5 Dong Gyu Oh, No. 9 Je Won Jeon, No. 10 Dogeon Park, and No. 15 Sooyang Yang of South Korea; No. 2 Nan Hyun Lin, No. 6 Hong-Lin Fu, and No. 11 Shu-Lun Chang of Chinese-Taipei; No. 3 Matthew Garcia of the Philippines; No. 8 Hiroki Fujita, No. 14 Kaita Odani, and No. 16 Kenta Miyoshi of Japan; and No. 12 Qwyn Quittner of Australia.

In the girls singles, the Top 2 seeds are Japan's Manami Ukita and China's Zijun Jiang.

Seeded pairs in the doubles have yet to be posted, as players have until tomorrow to register.

The 2019 Northern Marianas Junior Championships is a Grade 5 event under the ITF Juniors World Tour calendar and awards 30 ranking points to the singles champion and 25 to doubles winners.

2021

From Page 28

suggesting to hold six sports instead of 12 and decreasing the budget from $8 million to $3 million. The PGC gave the CNMI government about a month to decide.

Torres eventually had a change of heart, citing the importance of the Pacific Mini Games to the people of the CNMI and the entire Pacific.

"Gov. Torres and Lt. Gov. Palacios remain steadfast in their belief that athletics in the Pacific is a way of bringing people from around the region together in the spirit of competition and promoting a healthy lifestyle through the celebration of sports and the human spirit. We know this event is a great way of fostering our youth to be more active and engaged so that they can become better citizens when they eventually become leaders in their own right," said Press secretary Kevin Bautista.

"This decision is to the benefit of our athletes who have taken the time to share their concerns. We will continue to uphold that commitment because we believe it transcends the Games itself and provides a lasting impact on our community as a whole. But we believe that it is prudent to be cognizant of our financial challenges," he added.

Meanwhile, Minogue said the PGC acknowledged the CNMI government's concerns with the funding of the Games and they will do their best to come out with a plan that will work for both parties.

"Payments (for hosting and other related expenses) don't start for many years after the bid is won and in the overall scheme of the total Games budget are miniscule. I think the governor wants to know the likely overall cash flow needs between now and the Games. We will help develop a plan that delays as much of this expenditure as possible to the last year," Minogue said.

"The governor wants to continue the dialogue with PGC. PGC will work cooperatively with the governor to see if we can reach a mutually satisfactory outcome," he added.

JP

From Page 27

make this event a success," said TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan.

"It's great to see the members of our community coming together to support a good cause and at the same time participate in an activity (walking/running) that promotes health and wellness," he said.

Participants ran/walked from Garapan Fishing Base to past the Quartermaster Road along Beach Road and back (the shorter course had a turnaround across True Value), wearing capes and masks, depicting the event's theme. Some, particularly those who came with their kids, rounded the course in strollers, karts, and scooters, while children runners/walkers were treated to more fun activities at the finish line, as they played in bounce houses.

The competitive runners, on the other hand, were in their usual form, rounding out the course way ahead of their opponents. Kosuke Sato and Heather Taylor were the overall first place finishers in the 5K men's and women's divisions, while Markus Toves and Kaithlyn Chavez topped the 1.5K event. Other first place finishers were 13 to 19's Bailey Spaeth ad Stella McCallion; 20 to 29's J. Cheng and Taylor Nowicki; 30 to 39's Charlie Sendin and Sheila Isla; 40 to 49's Ronald Villafria and Ayano Braxton; 50 to 59's Jun Hashimoto and Sakiko Eda; and over 60's Steve Pixley and Amalia Harris.

The top finishers along with the second and third placers received medals, while the Tan Si Lin Foundation, the charity arm of TanHoldings and organizer of the event, also recognized the schools with the most runners/supporters. Saipan International School won in the private school category and was joined in the podium by No. 2 Agape Christian School and No. 3 Grace Christian Academy. William S. Reyes Elementary School, Garapan, and Marianas High School were the Top 3 in the public school division.

Legacy to the community

CCA executive director Juan L. Babauta was among the participants in the 11th edition of the event and was very pleased with how the community is getting involved in cancer awareness campaign through various activities in the Commonwealth, such as this running event.

He added that the JP Hero Run is close to his heart, as it is held in honor of his godfather.

"JP was a hero himself, as he was a solid contributor to the community. He did things that contributed to the economic, social, and educational development in the CNMI. And even after his passing, he is still helping us, through his JP Hero Run. This is his legacy to the community and CCA would like to thank Jerry Tan and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for making it happen," Babauta said.

Pangelinan's daughter, Cristy, was also present in last weekend's event and calls on the community to continue supporting the fundraiser.

AGAPE

From Page 28

Pang said.

"We definitely have a height advantage over Mt. Carmel and we used that to take control of the game, especially in the second half. Our boys are also fast because they are runners so we got a lot of fastbreak baskets," the Agape coach added.

Tang top-scored for Agape with his 18 points, while Antonio Zi added 8, making most of them in the paint. Zheng, Bao, and Caleb Dai combined for 12 markers, while Tony Liang rounded out the Torchbearers' box scores after logging 2.

San Nicolas paced the Knights with his 9 markers, as only him and Leo Naraja delivered more than two field goals for Mt. Carmel.

The title win completed Agape's sweep of the season, as it earned an 11-0 record in the elimination and defeated Saipan Community School in the semifinals.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Agape Christian School players and coach Kok Pang, standing left, pose with their championship trophy after beating Mt. Carmel School, 40-17, in the finals of the CCOPSA boys middle school caging last Friday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Agape 40 —Tang 18, Zi 8, Zheng 4, Bao 4, Dai 4, Liang 2.

Mt. Carmel 17— San Nicolas 9, Naraja 4, Cepeda 2, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-5, 14-11, 24-11, 40-17

JP Hero Run draws record field

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The JP Hero Run had a record field, as more than 1,700 runners/walkers participated in last Saturday's event.

Family members, students, teachers, co-workers, sports teams, other groups, and even pets joined the run/walk held in memory of TanHoldings Corp. executive John "JP" Pangelinan and to support the Commonwealth Cancer Association and its programs.

"We had 1,706 runners today, breaking last year's record of 1,500 plus. We are very thankful to all the participants from schools, private companies, the government agencies, families, and everyone who did their share to

See JP on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Four runners in masks and capes cruise along Beach Road.

Runners head out to the course of last Saturday's JP Hero Run.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN. MONROYO
A father and his son are on their way to the finish line.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan, left, heads back to the start/finish line at the Garapan Fishing Base.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Overall men's and women's division winners Kosuke Sato, third left, and Heather Taylor, second left, pose with their medals and are joined in the podium by TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan, left, and Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera, right.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan International School headmaster Ron Synder, second right, and their students receive an award after the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Runners join the zumba warm-up.

Warriors beat Blazers for 3-0 lead in West finals

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Trout hits milestone HR to lead Angels over Royals

PAGE 25

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Pacific Games Council executive director Andrew Minogue and president Vidhya Lakhan, and Northern Marianas Sports Association vice president Justin Andrew listen to the questions of the reporters during last month's press conference for the updates on the CNMI's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

2021 Mini Games may stay on Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2021 Pacific Mini Games may remain on Saipan provided that a funding scheme will be devised to consider the serious cash flow problems the CNMI government is experiencing.

"After going over the Pacific Games Council's proposal, we believe that we can reasonably host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games in the CNMI for the proposed $3-million budget if given the opportunity to fund the amount through a payment plan that considers the current economic and fiscal conditions of the CNMI, as we recover from a devastating typhoon season," Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said in a letter went to Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan last week.

Torres, just a couple of months ago, announced that the CNMI government was withdrawing from its commitment for the Commonwealth's hosting of the quadrennial event to focus its resources to the recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu that hit Saipan and Tinian late last year.

Upon learning the host nation's decision, Lakhan and PGC executive director Andrew Minogue flew to Saipan and had discussions with government officials and other stakeholders. The visitors then proposed to scale down the Pacific Games just to keep the event on Saipan,

See 2021 on Page 26

Agape romps past MCS in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Agape Christian Academy dominated Mt. Carmel School in the second half to ease its way to a 40-17 title win in the boys division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League last Friday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

With the finale still too close to call after the first half, as Agape led by only 3, 14-11, the Torchbearers pulled away in the third quarter after holding the Knights scoreless in that pivotal period. Agape's much taller frontliners clogged the lanes, as they often allowed only one shot per customer and forced Mt. Carmel to take long jumpers and miss. On many occasions, it took the Knights a lot of time to set up their offense, as Agape defenders prevented them from penetrating the paint.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Agape Christian School's Eason Tang takes off for a fastbreak basket during their title game against Mt. Carmel School in the CCOPSA caging last Friday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

While Mt. Carmel fired blanks in the second half, Agape was on target, especially on fastbreak plays. Eason Tang converted back-to-back easy layups off steals near midcourt to spark the Torchbearers' breakaway in the third period, which ended with the eventual champion ahead by a baker's dozen, 24-11.

The Knights' struggle on offense continued in the majority of the fourth quarter and only ended when the ball landed in front of Leland Deleon Guerrero after a rebound play and the guard banked in point-blank shot. However, Deleon Guerrero's basket did not matter that much, as Agape was in full control, 32-13, and time was on the Knights' side with only a little over three minutes left in game.

With their wide margin, Torchbearers coach Kok Pang pulled out his three starters, while Gabby San Nicolas reported back into the game for MCS after sitting out majority of the third quarter following a collision with an Agape player and drilled two straight baskets.

Though still ahead by double-figures, 32-17, Pang recalled his starters for good measure and Tang, David Zheng, and Baby Bao finished the job to hand Agape the boys middle school crown—a day after the school was stunned by Grace Christian Academy in the girls division finals.

"I have confidence in my players. Even though we lost in the girls finals, I know our boys team is a much stronger group, so I am not so worried. But still, I asked them to remain focus and play good defense against Mt. Carmel because offense will come next,"

See AGAPE on Page 26

ITF Juniors World Tour event kicks off

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2019 Northern Marianas Junior Championships will start today at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts with nearly more than 70 players from 13 countries competing in singles an doubles events.

The first set of matches will be played starting at 8:30am, while eight CNMI bets will have their opening games today.

In the girls singles, Malika Miyawaki will be taking on Japanese Natsumi

See ITF on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Chinese-Taipei player gets ready to serve during a practice game for the 2019 Northern Marianas Junior Championships at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan hard court yesterday. The ITF Juniors World Tour event will kick off today.